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DEATHS.

At Leipzig, Germany, on the 24th April, at the age of 5, WALTER, eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. P. SACHSE. (By telegram). [1005]
At Ningpo, on 17th April, 1897, KATHERINE JOSEPHINE, the beloved daughter of Major and Mrs. WATSON, age 21 years and 5 months. Deeply regretted.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 23rd March arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 23rd April (31 days); and the French mail of the 26th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 24th April (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A fund for the relief of the sufferers by the Szechuen famine has been opened at Shanghai.

Sir Claude MacDonald went to Macao on the 21st April by the torpedo destroyer *Handy* and returned on the 23rd, when he transhipped to the storeship *Humber*, by which His Excellency proceeded North.

Among the passengers by the incoming German mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich* are Princes Uchtomsky and Wolkonsky with their respective suites. These two noblemen form the special Russian mission to bring the presents of the Czar to the Emperor of China.

Messrs. R. E. Bredon and Woodruff, Commissioners of Customs, who have retired from the Service, and Mr. Beanclerk, ex-Secretary of Legation at Peking, now appointed Consul-General at Buda-Pest, left Shanghai by the P. M. steamer *China* on the 17th April.

A side containing a number of Koreans won an Association football match by one goal to nil on the 27th ult. at Seoul against the British Marine guard and officers of H.M.S. *Narcissus*.

The *Mainichi's* Seoul correspondent says that under Consul-General Jordan's influence the Koreans are turning away from both Russia and Japan and being drawn towards Great Britain.

The decision of the Secretary of State with respect to the Hongkong Light Dues question has been announced. It is to the effect that the total revenue raised from shipping, including junks, is not to exceed the expenditure upon the harbour and lighthouse services. The old rate of one cent per ton will more than meet this requirement.

At a meeting of ratepayers held at Shanghai on the 21st April the Chairman of the Municipal Council gave explanations in respect to the action of the Council in connection with the recent wheelbarrow strike. After hearing these explanations the meeting passed a vote of want of confidence and the Council resigned. The election of the new Council has been fixed for the 10th and 11th May, pending which the old Council retain office.

It has been decided at a meeting of French residents at Shanghai to form a company of volunteers, under the French Municipal Council. A committee was elected and over fifty names were inscribed on the roll. As far as is known at present the organisation will be completely independent of the existing Volunteer Corps, and will have their own adjutant, who will probably be engaged in Saigon.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A large cotton mill is now in course of erection at Hangchow, the engines and machinery all being supplied by German manufacturers. The mill buildings are being built by a Chinese contractor, and it is expected will be completed in about two months. There is, however, no foreign superintendent, and it is a matter of common speculation as to how things are going to be managed under entire native control.—*Mercury*.

Referring to the desire expressed by the local authorities to learn something about the foreign machinery used in curing tea, of which we (*Foochow Echo*) made mention last week, we are now informed that a deputation from their body headed by the Taotai visited the premises of the Foochow Tea Improvement Company at Peeling last week and appeared greatly interested in all they saw. On their departure they said that they wished the proprietors to understand that if at any time their assistance was needed they might rely upon having it.

The Hongkong memorial of the Diamond Jubilee is to take the form of a hospital for women and children with nursing institute attached and a road round the island. It is expected that \$50,000 will be raised by public subscription and the Government has promised a similar amount, making a total of \$100,000. This sum is to be equally divided between the two projects. \$50,000, it is estimated, will cover the cost of the hospital. The road is estimated to cost \$225,000 and the \$50,000 now raised will be expended on the first section, the Government undertaking to carry out the remainder of the work by degrees.

Senor de Navarro, Spanish Consul, has received an official telegram from Manila stating that Marshal Primo de Rivera, the new Governor-General of the Philippines, took over charge on the 23rd April.

The *Mercury* says:—Through the Senior Consul, Dr. O. Stuebel, H.E. the Taotai has been informed by the Captain Superintendent of Police of the frequent attacks and insolence to which foreigners have been subjected during the last few days, and insisting that all offenders in this respect must be sternly dealt with.

A resident in Shanghai who has just returned from the Haimeng district, the home of the wheelbarrow-men, reports that news of the riot in Shanghai has spread far and wide. It is generally believed that three foreign policemen and three wheelbarrow coolies were killed in a desperate struggle, and that the coolies, being victorious, are no longer under the control of the Municipal Council. Reports like this, flying like wild-fire up the river, threatening evil consequences wherever there is a small body of foreigners confronted by a mass of ignorant Chinese, were certain to follow the back-down of the Council; and it is because of this that it is important that the false step made by the Council should be retracted as soon as possible.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A curious but by no means unusual ceremony in this country took place the other day in Soochow. This was the marriage of Miss Hsu, a young lady belonging to one of the gentry families of the city, to a red flower vase, this vase being made a substitute for the son of Lu Jen-hsiang, Libationer or Vice-Chancellor of the Imperial Academy of Peking and a former Optimus of the Hanlin Academy. It appeared that the son of the Libationer died last winter, a few days before his contemplated marriage with the young lady, and the latter vowed that she would never marry, but be an inmate of her betrothed's family where she could observe her widowhood. Hence the marriage ceremony in question. There is a suggestion to memorialise the Throne for a granite arch to be built in Soochow to commemorate the virtues of Miss Hsu.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The report of the directors of the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, to 31st December, 1896, states that the realisation of the assets of the old bank has continued to progress favourably, and the anticipations expressed in report, dated 30th March, 1896, have been so far realised that the assets as valued at 31st December, 1896, show a surplus over liabilities to the public of about £50,000. Sales will be continued as opportunities offer. The suits which have been instituted against American and Chinese recalcitrant shareholders are being vigorously pushed, but decisions are not expected for some time. Other suits have resulted in a number of shareholders coming into the scheme, and in considerable recoveries of the 1893-94 call. The past year has not been a good one for exchange banking in China and Japan, and the working of the new bank, resulting as it has in meeting all expenses and the ordinary cost of liquidation, cannot but be considered favourable, and augurs well for the success of the Bank when in a position to carry on loan and discount transactions as well as exchange.

FORESHORE RIGHTS IN CHINA.

There is printed as an appendix to the last annual report of the China Association the correspondence respecting the foreshore dispute at Chefoo. The particular case in question has been settled, apparently to the satisfaction of the parties immediately concerned, but, as the Association points out, the principle involved affects the position of all foreign owners of water frontage property in China, and it may therefore be useful to give a summary of the correspondence that took place in connection with it. On the 14th May, 1896, the Shanghai Committee of the China Association telegraphed to the General Committee:—"British foreshore rights Chefoo ceded Russia despite protest. Earnestly urge protective action." Thereupon the General Committee addressed the Foreign Office, and in the course of their letter say, "It may be stated, they believe, 'without fear of contradiction, that Chinese law and custom allow frontage-owners a prior claim to accretions which—unless there be some valid objection to the reclamation—they are permitted to fill in, and for which new title deeds are given when they are prepared to pay land tax on the extended area.' Further on in their letter they say, after pointing out what they consider the serious consequences of the precedent that would be established if the Chinese claim to the foreshore in question were admitted, that 'civil law in China may not be defined with the precision to which Europeans are accustomed; but there do exist certain customs and conceptions of equity; and the Committee feel assured that what is indicated as having occurred at Chefoo would appear inequitable in the eyes of both official and lay Chinese.'" On the 14th September the Shanghai Committee reported with regret that there had been fresh developments in the matter and that it appeared the principles laid down by Her Majesty's Minister at Peking were shortly these:—

That all accretions to land held under title deed belong to the Chinese Government, but cannot be disposed of without the recognition of the right of pre-emption possessed by the holder of the property to which the accretions form a boundary.

That the Chinese Government cannot be compelled to dispose of the property to the holder of the right of pre-emption.

That if they disregard the obligation expressed in No. 1, they are liable to make good the damage suffered.

Fergusson and Company, having been denied the right of pre-emption, are entitled to compensation, which will be exacted.

The principles embodied in the above are substantially those advanced in this column as applicable to the case at the time it was pending. They are the principles of British law and are based on natural equity. The statement that Chinese law on the subject is based on opposite principles appears to be unsupported by anything in the way of direct proof and to rest simply on vague supposition. The Shanghai Committee, however, were dissatisfied with the principles above laid down, and in their letter to the General Committee they enclosed a communication they had addressed to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD on the subject, in which they say that "Having regard to 'foreshore rights in other places besides Chefoo, and to the determination of 'British residents to defend these rights to

"the last extremity, the Shanghai Committee feel that the precedent afforded by 'the Chefoo case, if sanctioned by British authority, is in the highest degree disastrous and lamentable.'" The last document in the series is from the Foreign Office to the China Association, dated 20th January last, in which it is stated that the Tsungli Yamen had submitted a scheme to Her Majesty's Minister on the 13th July for the construction of a Government pier and public bund under the control and management of the Imperial Maritime Customs Administration, which was accepted on the distinct understanding that the Chinese Government would be prepared to award compensation to any British subjects whose property might be injuriously affected by the undertaking, and that in consequence of Sir CLAUDE's representations the Yamen Ministers had promised to instruct Sir ROBERT HART to enter into negotiations with Messrs. FERGUSON's legal advisers and it was hoped no further complications would interfere with the carrying out of the proposed arrangement.

The foreign owners of water frontage property at the various ports in China will no doubt be put on the alert by the Chefoo case and where accretions occur which are or may be of importance to them will endeavour to protect their interests by securing a valid title to the newly formed land. In this they will be entitled to look for the support of their Government should the Chinese authorities oppose them merely in a spirit of obstruction and without adequate cause. Under English law, although the owner of water frontage property is not as of right entitled to any land that may form between his lot and the water, it is usually only in case the new ground is required for public improvements that he is deprived of his right of way over it, and then only after adequate compensation. In the Chefoo case the land in question was originally disposed of by the Chinese to a Russian firm without any reference to a scheme of general improvement, and it would seem that it was only under pressure from the British Government that they undertook to construct a Government pier and public bund. Without such undertaking presumably Lord SALISBURY would not have assented to Messrs. FERGUSON & Co. being deprived of their water frontage. Probably, therefore, the native authorities will not again try the experiment of disposing of A of the foreshore of B's property; but B would do well to bear in mind that any accretions that may have occurred do not belong to him by virtue of the title deeds of his original holding and that if he wishes to exercise proprietary rights over such accretions he must take the necessary steps to acquire such rights. On the whole British property owners in China will not have much to complain of if their rights to their water frontages are recognised as being only the same as the rights of the owners of similarly situated property in Great Britain.

On the last homeward voyage of the M. M. steamer *Natal*, we learn from the *Courrier d'Haiphong*, two deaths occurred. One was that of a lady passenger, Madame de Balman, wife of an employé of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine at Saigon. Madame de Balman died on the 1st March in giving birth to a child, which was still-born. Her husband was to have left Saigon by a later mail to join his wife in France. A subscription was raised amongst the passengers to defray the expenses of Madame de Balman's funeral, which took place at Port Said. The other death that occurred during the passage was that of one of the butchers on board.

THE LIGHT DUES QUESTION.

The decision of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN on the light dues question has now been announced, and, as will be seen from the official correspondence published in another column, it is substantially in favour of those who oppose the permanent increase of the dues to two-and-a-half cents per ton. It is to be regretted, however, that the Secretary of State has not given a more decided answer on the question of principle. He directs that the total revenue raised from shipping including junks is not to exceed the harbour and lighthouse expenditure, which is so far satisfactory, as one cent per ton will in that case suffice, but at the same time he says that in case of necessity he would be prepared to consider a proposal for again raising the shipping dues, as they have not borne very hardly on the shipping interest. But as Mr. JOSEPH, the Secretary of the P. & O. Company, says in his letter, the fact of Hongkong's being a free port is undoubtedly the mainspring of the importance it has arrived at as a port of call and converging centre for the bulk of the shipping visiting the Far Eastern Seas. As a free port Hongkong has achieved its greatness and it is as a free port that it must maintain it. The Governor understands by a free port one in which no Customs dues are levied; which is no doubt technically correct, but Hongkong was started on a wider basis of freedom and it is desirable that it should so continue. At the annual meeting of the local branch of the China Association Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP contended that the intention at the establishment of the colony was simply that the port should be free from Customs dues, not from harbour dues, but in this he was incorrect, the words of Sir HENRY POTTINGER's proclamation being "that no manner of customs, port dues, or any other charges shall be levied . . . on any ships or vessels of whatever nation or sailing under whatever flag." It is much to be regretted that there should be any retrogression whatever from the enlightened policy of fifty-five years ago. It is easy to say that a few cents a ton is not much, that no ships are kept away, and so on; in fact trifling with principles is always easy, whether in politics, or business, or morals, but it opens the gate of the road to ruin. The absolute freedom of the port should be advocated by all who are interested in the welfare of Hongkong, for if once it be admitted that shipping may be taxed to make up deficiencies in the general revenue there would be a danger of the burdens being gradually increased until they became insupportable and drove vessels away. Property owners, in whose supposed interests it was intended to make the Gap Rock light dues permanent, fondly imagine that it is they who pay the municipal rates and that if the latter were increased it would be so much out of their pocket while if they were reduced they would be able to charge so much more in the way of rent. Hence their anxiety to throw as much of the burden of taxation as they can on to shipping. But the idea that property owners pay the rates, which, we note, is held also by H.E. the Governor, is quite a fallacy, which a perusal of almost any work on political economy would dispel. The rates are paid by the tenants in fact as well as by Ordinance; it is a mere matter of routine that they are collected through the landlords, and the raising or lowering of the rates would make no difference to the ultimate return obtained by the landlord from his property. The landlords, therefore, may be left out of the question. As to the

tenants, since they are all dependent directly or indirectly upon shipping for their livelihood it is to their interest that shipping should freely enter the port rather than that it should be frightened away by an attempt to impose charges upon it for the relief of the ratepayer. If the latter obtained relief for a time it would only be by striking at the root of his prosperity and his last state would be worse than his first.

JAPAN'S NEW TREATIES AND THE BOUNTY SYSTEM.

The China Association in its recently issued annual report for 1896-97 says:— "Japan has succeeded, now, in revising her treaties with all the Western Powers except Portugal; and nothing remains but to await practical experience of changes which will come into operation in 1897." It would seem that we may not have to wait so long for practical indications of what the course of events is likely to be when the new treaties come into operation, and the China Association, which includes Japan in its sphere, will do well to keep a close watch upon what transpires in the meantime. The Bill passed at the last session of the Japanese Diet providing for the payment to direct Japanese exporters of silk of a bounty or subsidy upon their shipments from Japan to foreign countries is a case in point. This measure, which, though proposed by the Government, we are glad to see has not yet received the Imperial sanction, is not only important as affecting particular interests, but also as affording an indication of the disposition Japan is likely to adopt towards foreigners. The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce in its letter to the Doyen of the Diplomatic body on the subject points out that the Bill is not only opposed to the spirit and letter of the treaties, but that it will also operate prejudicially to the Japanese silk industry. With the latter contention, which appears well founded, it is unnecessary here to deal, but that the Japanese Government should enter on a policy avowedly intended to be inimical to the foreigner is a matter of vital concern. There is little prospect of the Bill becoming law, because the foreign Powers would vigorously protest against it, and as it is in direct conflict with the treaties the Japanese Government would perforce have to give way. But the spirit which dictated the Bill will, it is to be feared, remain and manifest itself in other directions. To the friends of Japan, to those who thought she was inspired by liberal ideas and fair-mindedness in regard to international relations and foreign trade, the Bill will have come as a painful surprise; while those who have opposed treaty revision and maintained that Japan was not to be trusted will be able to point to it as a justification of their attitude. As the *Japan Mail* points out, the scheme embodied in the Bill is futile, "for the foreign exporter can secure the bounty for himself by the simple device of sending forward his silk in the name of a Japanese. It would be found, before long, that 'direct export' had largely increased, in appearance, and that the Treasury was paying out a considerable sum in bounties for the benefit of the 'foreign merchant.' But although the object arrived at might not be attained, supposing the Bill to receive the Imperial sanction, the fact remains that while the treaty provides that 'the subjects

"of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy, in the dominions and possessions of the other perfect equality of treatment with native subjects in all that relates to warehousing, bounties, facilities, and drawbacks," the Japanese Government is responsible for a proposal to give a bounty to Japanese subjects with the object of enabling them to drive foreigners out of the market.

SIMULTANEOUS DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

A telegram in the Australian papers states that the Government have been urged to arrange with the Queen for Her Majesty to personally give the signal for the beginning of the "Hymn of Praise," to be sung in St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, in order that the hymn may be sung simultaneously throughout Her Majesty's dominions. The Cable Companies, it is said, declare the scheme to be quite feasible and express their willingness to co-operate in the matter. Home papers received by the last mail contained references to the same project, which is that at a given hour on Accession Day, Sunday, 20th June, there should be special thanksgivings at a given hour throughout the world where the English Church has its representatives. Other denominations would of course gladly and eagerly fall in with the arrangement if it should be found practicable to carry it out. The idea almost reaches the height of sublimity, and no more striking illustration could be given of the scientific achievements of the Victorian era than that Her Majesty should have it in her power, by the simple act of touching an electric bell, to give a signal upon which millions of voices separated by the width of the world should be raised simultaneously in praise to the Almighty. In one of the favourite evening hymns sung in our churches a beautiful sentiment is expressed in the following verses:—

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn lends on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away.
The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

But on the present occasion it is proposed to eliminate altogether the distinctions of local time and that the song of praise shall be raised simultaneously, not only throughout Her Majesty's widespread dominions, but wherever an English congregation is to be found. The Cable Companies declare that this is practicable and that they are prepared to give effect to the idea in so far as it depends upon them. The practicability, however, depends on the hour selected. Noon Greenwich has been mentioned, but that would mean 7.37 p.m. in Hongkong and 3.38 a.m. for our friends at Vancouver. Though the latter would no doubt all be willing to get up in the middle of the night to fight for their Queen if necessary it may be doubted whether many of them would be equally ready to get up at such an unreasonable hour for the purpose of praying for Her. If on the other hand the service at St. Paul's were put off to five o'clock in the afternoon so that the people in Western Canada might hold theirs between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, it would make it 0.37 a.m. next day for us in Hongkong and 3.05 a.m. for the good people of Sydney. Sublime and fascinating therefore as the idea of a simultaneous hymn of praise is in the abstract the observance of local time would be on the whole more convenient.

PROPOSED DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL AT AMOY.

We have received the prospectus of an Anglo-Chinese School which it is proposed to establish at Amoy as a fitting commemoration of the completion of the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen VICTORIA. The scheme is in itself no doubt a good one, but whether it is suitable for a Jubilee memorial is another question, and on that point we would venture to submit for the consideration of the Amoy community that an essential element of a memorial is that of permanence. In the case of the proposed school the existence of that element is at least doubtful; the venture is, in fact, speculative. The provisional committee express the opinion that the least sum on which it would be prudent to start such a school would be \$20,000, but beyond this nothing in the way of a financial estimate is given. It is not even stated how much if any of the \$20,000 would be required for the building of a school-house. If it be intended to rent premises and so save the initial cost of building, the rent would be a permanent charge on the institution, and must be taken into consideration in estimating the chances of financial success. In any case a considerable hole would be made in the \$20,000 for the expense of setting the institution going, such as the cost of the master's passage from England, the furnishing of the school, provision of school books, etc. Assuming that \$15,000 was left as a permanent endowment fund and that the sum was invested at five per cent. the income would be \$750 a year. On the other side of the account we must put down at least \$3,000 a year for the head master, not to speak of assistants, and, say, \$600 for rent, with, say, another \$400 for incidental expenses, making a total of \$4,000. Deducting the assumed endowment of \$750 a year, this would leave a balance of \$3,250 to be made up by fees or subscriptions. Whether this amount is likely to be raised or not the Amoy community must know best, but we would remind them that on the occasion of the completion of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign the Yokohama community subscribed liberally for the establishment of a school for European children, which, it was considered, was much needed, and no doubt was entertained that once it was set going the institution would pay its way. In a few years, however, the school found itself in difficulties, and, we believe, collapsed, so far as its constitution as a public institution was concerned. The Amoy scheme strikes us as being even more speculative than the Yokohama one. It is proposed that the school shall be open to boys of all nationalities and creeds, that it shall be a day school with arrangements for boys to be housed if necessary with suitable families, that the school shall be secular, that the curriculum shall be confined to English and English subjects, that the school shall be for boys of the upper and middle classes each candidate to be approved of by the committee, that the scholars shall pay fees the amount to be subsequently determined, that the head master shall be a certificated Englishman, and that the committee of management shall consist of twelve members, six of Chinese race and six of European race, the British Consul and the Commissioner of Customs being included amongst the latter if they are willing to serve and the positions of President and Vice-President being given to them respectively. The scheme, however desirable it may appear to the present residents of Amoy, does not

strike us as one that will with any certainty appeal to the generosity of future generations, so that subscriptions cannot be counted on for its support, and the prospect of the income from fees together with the endowment covering the expenditure is at least doubtful. As a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee, therefore, it appears unsuitable.

THE SHANGHAI MIXED COURT.

In the explanation given by Mr. PROBST at the Shanghai Ratepayers' meeting with reference to the Municipal Council's surrender to the wheelbarrow coolies he mentioned that though the Council had legislative powers it had no judicial power by which to enforce its laws and that the inadequacy of the punishments inflicted by the Mixed Court was now receiving attention. If the recent troubles in the Model Settlement result in the placing of the Mixed Court on a more satisfactory basis and the ensuring of the better administration of the law it will be a case of good coming out of evil. This is no new question. In the Chefoo Convention the following declaration is made:—"In order to the fulfilment of its treaty obligations the British Government has established a Supreme Court at Shanghai with a special code of rules, which it is now about to revise. The Chinese Government has established at Shanghai a Mixed Court; but the officer presiding over it, either from lack of power, or dread of unpopularity, constantly fails to enforce his judgments. It is now understood that the Tsungli Yamen will write a circular to the Legations, inviting foreign representatives to consider with the Tsungli Yamen the measures needed for the more effective administration of justice at the ports open to trade." No action has yet been taken upon this understanding, possibly because, owing to the personal character of the officer who has in recent years presided over the Mixed Court, complaints of its inefficiency have been much less frequent than they were formerly, but the constitution of the Court nevertheless leaves much to be desired. It is to be hoped that the question of its reform may now be taken seriously in hand.

SUPREME COURT.

21st April.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHEONG A YEE, APPELLANT, V. REGINA, RESPONDENT.

In this case the appellant was convicted by the Acting Police Magistrate on the 1st April of being in unlawful possession of eleven balls of opium of the value of \$198 and he was fined \$500 with the alternative of three months' imprisonment. He sought for a rehearing on the following grounds, namely, that the decision was erroneous on the point of fact, that the penalty inflicted was excessive, and that evidence could now be adduced which could not be adduced before.

Mr. W. M. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the appellant and Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the respondent.

When the case was called on, the Attorney-General informed their Lordships that his learned friend had made a proposal with a view of settlement if their Lordships would consent to a certain course. Counsel therefore wished to discuss the matter with their Lordships in chambers.

Their Lordships agreed to the private consultation with the counsel and they retired.

On returning to court Mr. Slade mentioned that the Attorney-General had agreed to the following course being adopted. On their Lordships granting a rehearing of the case the defendant (the appellant) would plead guilty on the fine being reduced to \$50, the forfeiture of the opium, which was also part of the conviction, standing.

The Attorney-General said he understood their Lordships would grant a rehearing only on the ground that the amount of the penalty was excessive. He had considered the matter carefully and had come to the conclusion that it was better to accept a verdict of guilty with the reduction of the fine, the forfeiture of the opium standing.

The Chief Justice—The result is this, that the Court refuses the application for a rehearing on the ground that the decision of the Magistrate was erroneous on the point of fact and also on the ground that evidence can be adduced now which could not be adduced before the Magistrate, and the Court alters the decision of the Magistrate on the second ground of the application, that is to say, that the penalty inflicted was excessive, by reducing the penalty from \$500 to \$50, the forfeiture of the opium standing; this being done by consent of the parties. The Court will make no order as to costs.

SUNDER SINGH, APPELLANT, V. CHEUK SAN HOP AND ANOTHER, RESPONDENTS.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker), appeared for the appellant, who applied for leave to appeal from the decision of the Acting Puisne Judge sitting in the Summary Jurisdiction on a question of fact.

Mr. Francis said the application was made under Sections 41 and 47 of the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, and he was bound to make the application *ex parte* in the first instance. He suggested as a matter of convenience that their Lordships would give him leave to serve a notice of motion on the other side, so that the arguments for and against could be heard at one time.

Their Lordships agreed to this course and fixed the hearing for Tuesday next at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Francis then mentioned the case in which Sunder Singh and Mana Singh were applying for leave to appeal against the decision of the Acting Puisne Judge whereby they were, on the 15th April, committed to prison for three months for contempt of court.

This case arose out of the one just mentioned and on the application of Mr. Francis it was ordered to stand over.

22nd April.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

SERIOUS CHARGES.

Li Fan and U Chuk San were charged with conspiring to divert the true course of public justice in the colony and attempting to defraud Yung Ming Shan of \$13,888.88 by adducing in evidence a forged and counterfeit writing purporting to be a letter signed by Yung Ming Shan and dated 12th March, 1896.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Hastings, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) prosecuted and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Meunsey), defended the prisoners, who pleaded not guilty.

The case was tried by the following special jury—Messrs. E. Osborne, W. Macbean, C. Beumann, N. A. Siebs, W. R. Loxley, W. Poate, and T. Arnold.

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen was called, but Mr. Robinson asked that he should stand aside.

Mr. Francis said this was a private prosecution and Mr. Robinson had no right to ask any juror who was called to stand aside. The Crown had that right, but Mr. Robinson was not representing the Crown, although the information, as in all criminal cases, was laid by the Attorney-General.

His Lordship said asking a juror to stand aside was not equivalent to a challenge, as if the panel was exhausted he would be called upon to serve. The question was whether the right of asking a juror

to stand aside belonged only to the representative of the Crown. In substance this was a private prosecution, but it was admitted that the information was laid by the Attorney-General and as a matter of form it must be taken that this was a Crown prosecution for the purpose of asking a juror to stand aside.

Another Chinese gentleman who was called was also asked to stand aside.

Mr. Robinson explained the facts of the case. The prosecutor was for a period of thirty years, from 1862 to 1892, the rent collector and manager for the estate of a rich man named Yung Chu, who had property in Hongkong. In 1871 Yung Chu died and his eldest son became the executor and owner of the estate, the prosecutor continuing as rent collector until 1892, when he was succeeded by another man, who died in 1895. The prosecutor saw the prisoners and told them he was entitled to large sums of money from the estate for services rendered and asked them to "worry the family" for the money. An agreement was drawn up whereby the prisoners were to receive 20 per cent. of the money obtained from the family and the prosecutor was to keep 80 per cent. Nothing came of this agreement, but later the prisoners entered an action against the prosecutor in the Court of Original Jurisdiction to recover \$13,888.88 and in support of their case they produced certain documents, including affidavits. Judgment was given for the defendant and the prosecution now alleged that those documents were forged and that the prisoners attempted thereby to defraud the prosecutor of the sum of money named.

The case had not concluded when the Court adjourned.

23rd April.

At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution the jury unanimously returned a verdict of not guilty. There was another charge of uttering forged documents, but in regard to this Mr. E. Robinson, who prosecuted, entered a *nolle prosequi* and the prisoners were discharged. This concluded the business of the sessions.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BE AGHA MAHOMED ALLY SHIRAZEE.

Agha Mahomed Ally Shirazee, opium merchant, petitioned for a receiving order. On the 29th March judgment was given against the defendant in an action respecting two bills of exchange on the Imperial Bank of Persia for the sum of \$7,264.04.

Mr. C. D. Wilkinson appeared for the debtor and said his client had been compelled to apply for the order, as Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., agents for the Bank, had pressed him for payment. There was a sufficiency of assets, and his debts were something about \$20,000. The debts due to him were about \$13,000, and he had a claim for \$3,000 and another for \$1,600.

The petitioner was then called and he said he had been carrying on business for twenty years in Hongkong. He wrote to Persia for some opium and received two drafts on account of the opium. He did not, however, receive the opium. The amount of the drafts was \$7,000—\$4,000, and \$3,000. He had been in the habit in past years of getting his opium from Persia in that way. He was sued in respect of these drafts, and judgment was given against him. He had endeavoured to settle the judgment, but Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. would not give him time. No other creditors were pressing him. He expected to collect some money from Iran, in Persia. From Persia he expected to collect \$13,000 and from Bombay \$1,600. He was also entitled to get \$7,000, the amount of the drafts, from the drawer. He had a claim against the Mercantile Bank of India, in Hongkong, for about \$3,000. He had also \$300 in cash, and furniture for \$300 or \$400. His debts were something over \$20,000.

The receiving order was granted.

Discussing the proposal to establish a nursing institute at Shanghai as a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee the *Mercury* expresses the fear that if the nurses were young and pretty they would soon get married, and that, if the reverse, their services would not be in great demand.

THE LIGHT DUES QUESTION.

The following despatches have been forwarded to us from the Colonial Secretary's Office:—

GOVERNOR TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Hongkong, 18th January, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward herewith a petition which I have received from shipping firms in this colony on the subject of the light dues levied at this port.

2.—To facilitate the consideration of the question I should mention that light dues were first imposed in 1875, when one cent a ton was charged on European shipping entering the port and in 1890 they were increased to 2½ cents a ton, the increase being made in order to meet the expenditure in connection with the erection and maintenance of the lighthouse on the Gap Rock. It should also be borne in mind that in 1867 a charge was levied on all native craft trading with this port and has been continued up to the present time. This charge yielded in 1895 a revenue amounting to about \$50,000.

3.—Petitioners now ask that the dues be reduced to the original charge of one cent, as the additional levy of 1½ cents has more than paid for the cost of the Gap Rock Light, and as the charge of 1 cent a ton is more than sufficient to cover the cost of the upkeep and maintenance of the present lighthouses. They state that any charge over and above that necessary to cover such cost will deter shipping from this port and is an infringement of the freedom of the port, which will affect its welfare.

4.—So far as light dues are concerned I agree with petitioners that the revenue derived from them should be applied to the purpose for which it is raised, viz., the upkeep and maintenance of the lighthouses; and it is true that the charge of one cent a ton is sufficient to cover all present expenditure incurred on that account.

5.—With regard to the increased rate of 1½ cents a ton there seems to have been an understanding at the time it was raised that it was to be devoted to defraying the cost of the Gap Rock Lighthouse and there was an implied, if not a distinct, promise that it would not be devoted to any other purpose without the Legislative Council being consulted. In order therefore to redeem this promise, and I have informed the Council that in my opinion it should be redeemed, it will be necessary to abolish the present Gap Rock rate by a resolution of the Council. But petitioners not only desire the increase rate to be abolished in fulfilment of the promise made by Government, but they wish the light dues to be permanently reduced to one cent, pointing out that any levy in excess of that amount is not required for the lighthouse service, but will be merged in the general revenue, to which they contend that shipping should not contribute.

6.—In this contention with one exception all the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, to whom I referred the matter, do not concur, being of opinion that shipping should not be entirely exempt from taxation as petitioners desire, and they maintain that if the present dues of 2½ cents a ton are continued not as light dues but as harbour dues there will be no infringement of the freedom of the port—a free port being one at which no customs duties are levied, and there is no intention to charge customs dues at Hongkong. They also consider that the prosperity of the colony will not be affected by the imposition of such harbour dues.

7.—With regard to the argument advanced by petitioners that any tax on shipping will be an infringement of the freedom of the port, I do not think they can be aware of the fact that there are many free ports where the tax on shipping is very heavy, and I agree with those members of the Legislative Council who consider a free port to be one where no customs duties are charged.

8.—With respect to the fear expressed by petitioners that ships will be deterred from coming to Hongkong if a charge of 2½ cents a ton is imposed, the following figures show that the entry of European shipping into Hongkong has steadily increased since light dues were first levied. In 1875, when the dues were first levied, the European tonnage entering the port was 1,951,855 tons. In 1880 it

had increased to 2,535,587 tons and in 1885 to 3,866,709 tons. In 1890 light dues were increased from one cent to 2½ cents. In that year the tonnage entering the port amounted to 4,893,733 tons and in 1895 it reached 5,772,298 tons.

9.—It will be observed that petitioners admit that shipping should pay for the lighthouses which are established and maintained for its benefit. If this principle be extended there appears to be no reason why shipping should not contribute towards other services which are maintained either directly or indirectly on its account, such as the Harbour Department, Water Police, etc., the cost of which exceeds the amount raised from the dues of 2½ cents a ton imposed on shipping.

10.—As I have stated above, the charge on native craft yields a revenue of about \$50,000 a year, and if the principle is once admitted that European shipping should not be levied for purposes of general revenue, it would seem only fair to extend the same principle to native craft.

11.—The amount inserted in the Estimates for 1897 as likely to be derived from light dues amounts to \$113,000. If the prayer of the petition be granted and a charge of one cent instead of 2½ cents a ton is levied the amount of the estimate will be reduced to \$45,200.

12.—As you are aware, the sources of taxation in this colony are limited and only two years ago the fees charged for various licences were raised considerably. It is true the tax charged on the rateable value of house property is not a heavy one and might be increased without imposing too great a burden on owners of property. But I do not regard the present time a favourable one for increasing taxation in this direction, as recent sanitary legislation has involved a considerable outlay on house property, though, should the necessity arise, an increase might be made.

13.—After a careful consideration of the arguments advanced by the petitioners and of the views held by others on the subject of the taxing of European shipping entering this port, I am of opinion that a charge of 2½ cents a ton imposed on such shipping as harbour dues is not an unfair one, and is not calculated to injuriously affect the prosperity of this port, which even if this charge be imposed, will still be one of the cheapest ports for shipping in the world. If it appeared to me that harbour dues, such as I recommend should be imposed would have an injurious effect on the welfare of this colony, I should not hesitate for a moment to advise that no such a tax should be levied. I am fully alive to the importance to this colony of shipping and to the necessity of care being taken to avoid imposing on it any burden which would deter vessels from visiting it. But in view of the figures given above, which show that the tonnage entering the port has steadily increased, though it has had to pay for seven years a tax of 2½ cents a ton, exactly the same amount which it is now proposed to impose permanently as harbour dues, and of the fact that Hongkong is such a cheap port for shipping, I am led to the conclusion that the fears expressed by the petitioners are groundless and that harbour dues of 2½ cents a ton will not keep vessels away from the colony to the injury of its trade and its prosperity.

14.—I am advised that in order to give legal effect to the change which I propose of converting the present light dues into harbour dues it will be necessary to pass an Ordinance. I have therefore to request, if you concur in the conclusion at which I have arrived, that you will authorise me to introduce into the Legislative Council an Ordinance for this purpose, and that you will convey to me your authority by telegram, as it is important that this question should be definitely settled with as little delay as possible.—I have, &c.,

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., &c., &c., &c.

SECRETARY OF STATE TO GOVERNOR.

Downing Street,

17th March, 1897.

Sir,—With reference to your Despatch No. 15 of the 18th of January last and to my telegram of the 15th instant, I have the honour to

transmit to you copies of correspondence with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, as noted in the margin, on the subject of the Light Dues at Hongkong.

2.—I consider that the shipping interests were given a reasonable expectation that the Light Dues should be reduced when the cost of the Gap Rock Lighthouse was met. At the same time, I concur in your view that moderate dues may properly be levied in Hongkong, provided the proceeds do not in ordinary times exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour Department, including Lighthouses, Water Police, etc.

3.—I am, however, of opinion that in calculating the proceeds of the harbour dues, the charges on native shipping must be included, as well as those on ocean-going steamers, as suggested in the enclosed letter from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

4.—I am not therefore prepared to sanction your proposal to make a permanent charge of 2½ cents per ton on general shipping, although that charge must be continued to the end of the present year, in order to avoid a dislocation of the year's finances.

5.—Next year the charge must be reduced to such a rate as will, with the other harbour receipts, be sufficient to cover all harbour and lighthouse expenditure; and it will be necessary to find some other source of revenue to make up the deficiency, which may perhaps most conveniently be done by increasing the Assessed Taxes. I shall be glad to learn, at your early convenience, what changes in taxation you will recommend, in order to carry out the above decision, so that the matter may be settled before the time arrives for passing next year's Estimates.

6.—I desire to add that if at any time hereafter urgent necessity should arise for increasing the general revenue, I should be prepared to consider any proposal for again raising the shipping dues, as I have no reason to think that the present charge has borne very hardly on the shipping interests.—I have, etc.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE TO SECRETARY, P. AND O. S. N. CO.

Downing Street,

6th March, 1897.

Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department of the 18th ultimo, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for your information and for that of the other steamship companies whose representatives signed with you the letter of the 13th ultimo, the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Governor of Hongkong, relative to the proposal to maintain, as Harbour Dues, the charge of 2½ cents per ton at present levied as Light Dues on all shipping at Hongkong.

2.—Mr. Chamberlain concurs in Sir W. Robinson's view that it is not unreasonable to levy moderate harbour dues in Hongkong, provided that the proceeds do not exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour Department, including Lighthouses, Water Police, etc., and he has at present under his consideration to adopt one of the two following alternatives, viz., (1) a uniform charge of 2 cents (instead of 2½ cents) per ton on all shipping, or (2) a charge on a graduated scale such as is levied at Gibraltar, beginning at 2½ cents per ton on smaller vessels and rising to a maximum charge of (say) \$30 or \$40 on ships of (say) 1,800 tons and over.

3.—Before finally deciding the question he will be glad to consider any observations you may wish to offer, but I am to ask that any representations may be made at your earliest convenience as the Governor wishes to be informed by telegraph of Mr. Chamberlain's decision.—I am, etc.,

SELBOENÉ.

The Secretary to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

SECRETARY, P. AND O. S. N. CO. TO UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

122, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

10th March, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, No.

3,982 of 1897, enclosing, by the direction of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, for the information of the signatories to the letter of the 13th ultimo, copy of a despatch from the Governor of Hongkong relative to the proposal to maintain, as Harbour Dues, the charge of 24 cents per ton levied at present as Light Dues on shipping at Hongkong; also adding that Mr. Chamberlain concurs in the view that it is not unreasonable to levy moderate Harbour Dues in Hongkong, provided that the proceeds do not exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour Department, including Light-houses, Water Police, etc.

In reply, I am desired to state, on behalf of the signatories to the letter above referred to, that they regret that Mr. Chamberlain does not consider it expedient to reinstate Hongkong in the position of an absolutely free port, that having undoubtedly been the mainspring of the importance it has arrived at as a port of call and converging centre for the bulk of the shipping visiting the Far Eastern seas.

In view, however, of Mr. Chamberlain's opinion that the amount levied as harbour dues should not exceed the total expenditure on the Harbour Department, I am desired to draw attention to the following facts, which, it is considered, conclusively indicate that, on this basis, there is no ground for increasing the levy of 1 cent per ton which has been hitherto collected as fixed Light Dues.

In the letter from His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong it is stated that the tonnage which visited the port in 1895 amounted to 5,772,289 tons, which at 1 cent per ton yield a revenue of upwards of \$57,000. In the letter from the Shipping Firms of the 13th ultimo, it was pointed out that the present total expenditure of the whole lighthouse establishment of Hongkong is under \$17,000. There is consequently a balance of upwards of \$40,000 available from this source for general harbour expenditure and, as is shown in Sir W. Robinson's letter, there is a further revenue of \$50,000 a year emanating from the charge on native craft also available for that purpose, but in addition to this sum of \$90,000 per annum I am able to state that there are further charges on shipping collected by the Harbour Department, such as native emigration fees, taxes on moorings and lighters, etc., which bring in a considerable annual revenue, though I am unable, from the information at my disposal in this country, to state what the amount is.

It is considered, however, that the foregoing statements may be fairly held to indicate that the revenue at present collected by the Harbour Department (exclusive of the special levy of 14 cents per ton as Light Dues in connection with the Gap Rock Lighthouse) is already in excess of the total expenditure of that Department, and it is therefore respectfully urged that no further tax of any description may be levied upon shipping, as such charge would be exclusively applicable to the general expenditure of the colony, and is absolutely not required to meet any expenditure either directly or indirectly connected with shipping.

It is satisfactory to note that the Secretary of State is of opinion that no charge should be forced on shipping in the interest of what may be called the general Budget of the colony.—I am, etc.,

H. H. JOSEPH,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

On the 20th April Mr. W. E. Hunt, United States Consul, was riding an Australian horse along Pokfulam Road, and when near Belcher's battery the horse took fright at something in the road and bolted. Mr. Hunt being thrown to the ground. He sustained some cuts on the face and received a severe shock. Happily a friend witnessed the accident and with all possible speed he had the injured gentleman conveyed in a chair to the Government Civil Hospital. We are pleased to say that the injuries were not of a very serious nature and after a few hours' attention by Dr. Atkinson Mr. Hunt was sufficiently recovered to permit of his being sent home. We wish the Consul speedy and complete recovery.

MURDER OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARY.

A telegram has been received from Kweishan, Kwangsi, reporting that the chapel at Loli has been pillaged and the Rev. Father Mazel massacred and that Saijin is threatened. These are all the particulars given in the telegram. Father Mazel was a young priest, twenty-five years of age, who had only recently come out from France. He arrived in Hongkong in September last and after staying here a few weeks went to Kweishan, where he remained till the beginning of last month, when he left for Loli. Kweishan, from whence the telegram comes, is the town in which the Vicar Apostolic of Kwangsi has his residence, and Loli is a town in his jurisdiction. The telegram leaves it uncertain whether the attack was the result of religious persecution or a simple act of brigandage.

STRANDING OF THE "YIKSANG."

On Saturday morning Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. received a telegram stating that the *Yiksang*, which went ashore on the rocks at Iwayaki, which is between Nagasaki and Kobe, was expected to float if the weather continued favourable. She was on a voyage from Newchwang to Kobe with a general cargo. Assistance has been sent to the vessel with the necessary machinery.

FIRE ON THE "BELGIC."

A fire broke out in No. 1 hold of the *Belgic* at 10.20 on the night of the 21st April as she was lying at her buoy in the harbour. The outbreak originated near an earthen furnace in the tween decks which was being used for the purpose of fumigating the luggage of the Chinese passengers, and as soon as it was discovered signals were given. The new floating fire engine was sent to the vessel and a small party of firemen from the Central Police Station also went, but it was not until one o'clock in the morning that they finished their work, which consisted principally of pumping water into the hold up to the combings. The luggage of the Chinese passengers and a quantity of matting were destroyed and there was also a somewhat serious personal injury recorded. One of the tubes of the boiler of the new floating fire engine burst, the consequence being that a Chinese fireman was severely scalded about the body. He was taken with all haste to the Government Civil Hospital, where he is detained. The *Belgic* was due to leave here on the 22nd April at noon, but owing to the fire her departure was delayed until daylight next morning.

FATAL FIRE IN JERVOIS STREET.

SIX MEN CHARGED WITH ARSON.

On the 21st April at 5.30 a.m., a fire broke out at 99, Jervois Street, a building of three storeys, and unfortunately three men were suffocated. The ground and the top floors were used by a birds' nest dealer, the top floor being occupied by the coolies as sleeping quarters, while the first floor was occupied by a dealer in aniseed oil. On the alarm of the fire being given the Fire Brigade, under Acting Deputy Superintendent Corcoran, promptly attended and the work was proceeded with so satisfactorily that in three-quarters of an hour the flames were extinguished and the shell of the building was saved from destruction, the contents only being destroyed. But although the fire itself did not assume extensive proportions it resulted in the death of three men, one of them being the master of the aniseed oil shop. They were found, while the customary search was being made, lying in a heap on the floor of the cookhouse on the first floor and it was evident that they had been suffocated. They had been sleeping on the first floor and doubtless they rushed into the cookhouse with the object of saving themselves by means either of the smoke hole or a rope which reached to the top storey, but on reaching this room they were overcome by the dense smoke and fell lifeless to the ground. The origin of the fire is unknown and inquiries are being instituted by Inspector Kemp and Duncan. The insurance is rather heavy. The ground and top floors

were insured in the South British Company for \$7,000 and first floor in the Transatlantic Insurance Company for \$2,000. Six foks belonging to the birds' nest shop have been charged with arson. The ground for this charge was the finding of several perforated tins containing kerosine in the top storey and it is also supposed that the insurance effected was for a sum much greater than the real value of the contents.

On Saturday Mr. H. E. Wodehouse opened the inquiry concerning the death from suffocation of the three men who were found in a cookhouse at the back of 99, Jervois Street, which was on fire on the 21st inst. Six men were arrested on a charge of wilfully setting fire to the place, but one of them was discharged on the application of Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor, who conducted the case for the police. Mr. Dennys explained that there was a suspicion that murder had been committed, as it was thought the fire was the result of an act of incendiarism. Four tins of kerosine were found in the shop, three of them having been placed there, it was supposed, for setting fire to the place, while one of them was perhaps used for legitimate purposes. The evidence showed that the men had died from asphyxia and that they could have escaped only by a rope which hung down a smoke hole. When the outbreak was discovered the five accused men ran about shouting "Fire." The inquiry was adjourned until Wednesday afternoon, when it will be decided whether to continue the inquest or hold a fire inquiry.

THE ANTI-FOOTBINDING SOCIETY.

The Organising Secretary of the Tien Tsu Hui writes us:—

So many ladies in Hongkong signed the memorial to the Emperor of China against foot-binding that it will probably interest many of your readers to hear that Colonel Denby is again pressing on the Tsungli Yamen with all his influence the duty of forwarding this memorial to those to whom it is addressed, the Emperor and Empress Dowager, instead of shelving it or keeping it among their archives as they proposed to do. It may be remembered they said it was very difficult to present such a memorial to the Emperor. It is to be hoped they may soon find it not impossible so to do.

The appeal against footbinding issued by Mr. Chow, one of the literati of Suifu, who has held a post as examiner, continues to arouse many opponents to this cruel custom. Mr. Chew Fai-ting, shipping manager of the China Merchants Company, has had 5,000 copies printed and circulated through his native province of Canton. It were to be wished that many others of the enlightened Cantonese, who have studied in Europe and America, would show the same public spirit, for a Cantonese lady who called on me the other day had a foot measuring shorter than my thumb.

At Changchow, in the west of China, a set of young literati are, like Mr. Chew Fai-ting, printing and circulating the Suifu appeal. At Chungking a society of young literati has been formed, each binding himself to pay a fine if not discouraging footbinding in his own family. At Suifu they go further and pledge themselves not to bind their daughters' feet and not to give them in marriage without first requiring a written promise from the future bridegroom and all his family that no offspring of the marriage shall be bound.

Surely there must be many Chinese in Hongkong who detest this corrupt practice of modern days, and who know enough of the laws of physiology to understand how injurious it is to women in childbirth as also to their offspring. Yet so far we have not heard of any determined attempt to do away with footbinding originating in Hongkong. Having just travelled through those beautiful districts of China, famed in song and story, where people are dying by the roadside of hunger, and where in some cities all the inhabitants are taking opium because there is nothing else for them to take, it would be difficult to describe the painful impression made by the truly hoof-like feet of the women there, the ugliest, though certainly not the smallest, I have yet seen. How can they take their proper part in life's work, and sustain their husbands and sons under calamities

when thus mutilated? It seems useless to look for women like the mother of Mencius among these deformed ones, and equally in vain to look for men like Mencius or Confucius among their offspring. Probably many well-educated Chinese read your columns, and I hope that some Chinese newspaper editors may note these remarks from one who wishes well to their country.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1897.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE.

On Monday afternoon the Diamond Jubilee Permanent Memorial Committee met in the Council Chamber for the first time since the Sub-Committee issued its report. Hon. C. P. Chater presided and there were also present Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Hon. Secretary), Hons. F. A. Cooper, F. H. May, T. H. Whitehead, J. J. Bell Irving, Wei Yuk, Messrs. A. Coxon, D. R. Crawford, N. J. Ede, J. J. Francis, Q. C., D. Gillies, R. M. Gray, Ho Amei, Ho Tung, T. Jackson, Li Sing, A. P. McEwen, H. M. Mehta, H. N. Mody, R. N. Moses, A. J. Raymond, H. A. Ritchie, Herbert Smith, and J. Thurburn.

The HON. SECRETARY read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the Sub-Committee appointed by you to inquire as to certain projects with a view of ascertaining their suitability as a permanent memorial of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign have made their report and that report has been in your hands for some days. Having considered the report very carefully and having ascertained, as far as practicable, the general feelings of the community, it was evident that nothing could be definitely settled without in the first instance ascertaining from the Government what they were prepared to do in this matter. I consulted the hon. Secretary and the hon. Treasurer and in company with them waited upon his Excellency the Governor. We pointed out to his Excellency that the general feeling, so far as the selection of any one project was concerned, was very much divided indeed and that whatever project was carried, or rather whatever project was recommended by this Committee, it could not be carried without the aid of the Government, and we therefore asked his Excellency whether he would be prepared to vote a sum towards our funds equal to that which might be raised from public subscriptions, and this sum, we hoped, might amount to \$50,000. We further asked his Excellency that if half the sum thus collected were devoted to the erection of a hospital for women and children and the training of nurses and the other half were given to the commencement of the road round the island, as projected by Mr. Stewart, the Government should take charge of the hospital and carry it on in conjunction with and indeed in the same manner as the present Civil Hospital and should also, in course of time, complete the road round the island. His Excellency received us most courteously, and promised that he would give the matter his most favourable consideration, and that he would give his answer in a few days. I am now, gentlemen, in possession of his Excellency's reply, and it gives me very great pleasure to read it to you.

Government House,
Hongkong, 24th April, 1897.

Sir,—Understanding that there has been a nearly general consensus of opinion in regard to the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and that the majority of the taxpayers are in favour of the erection, at once, of a Hospital for Women and Children, an Institute for the Training of Nurses, and the making of a road, by degrees, round the island, I have consulted the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject.

Mr. Chamberlain has agreed to my proposing a vote to the Legislative Council equal in amount to that subscribed by the general public, say about \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars), the total amounts to be devoted towards the general celebrations and the three schemes mentioned above, on the understanding that in the event

of there being any deficiency in the public revenue it will be made good by increased taxation, as indicated in his Despatch No. 64 of the 17th March, published in the local papers of the 23rd inst.

I should be glad if you would submit the matter as soon as possible to the Committee, with the expression of a hope on my part that they will arrive at an early and unanimous decision as to what schemes for the adequate celebration of this unusual event should be adopted and proceeded with.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Gentlemen, from this letter you will observe that his Excellency, with the concurrence of the unofficial members of the Council, is prepared to bring forward a vote of \$50,000, or a sum equal to that which might be raised from the community by the Jubilee Committee. The Government is further prepared to take charge of the hospital and to carry it on in conjunction with the Civil Hospital and on the same terms, and furthermore to finish the road projected by Mr. Stewart in course of time. The Committee, gentlemen, have made no recommendation; in fact from the resolution that was passed we were of opinion that we were not asked to make any recommendation, and even if we were I do not think for a moment that we could have been in a position to make a recommendation without the information which I have just placed before you. This information was received by me only on Friday last and with this information in your possession, gentlemen, I have not the least doubt that you can easily arrive at a conclusion—a conclusion which, I trust, will not only be pleasing to Her Most Gracious Majesty, whom we have all met here to honour, but also satisfactory to the community and a credit to the colony. (Applause.)

Mr. CRAWFORD—May I take it that the expression of the opinion given by the Sub-Committee was such that you did not consider it necessary to bring forward the scheme for the establishment of a College of Medicine?

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Crawford, as far as the College of Medicine is concerned I may say that having carefully considered the report and ascertained, as far as practicable, the feeling of the community, we thought it better not to bring that scheme forward at the present moment; perhaps, on another occasion it might be brought forward. That was my feeling on the subject.

Mr. FRANCIS—May I ask for His Excellency's letter to be read again. I certainly did not hear any pledge that the Government would take over the hospital and continue it, or that they would carry out the construction of the road. I may have heard the letter imperfectly.

The CHAIRMAN again read His Excellency the Governor's letter.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I ask if you have a promise from His Excellency the Governor that the Government will continue the maintenance of the proposed hospital?

The CHAIRMAN—I certainly understand His Excellency's letter to mean that. In case there is a deficit it will have to be met by increased taxation.

The HON. SECRETARY—His Excellency the Governor has communicated with the Secretary of State for the Colonies stating that the cost of the road will be 2½ lakhs, and it is proposed to complete the road; the same remark applies to the hospital. If it is decided by the Committee that one of the memorials is to take the form of a hospital for women and children and the establishing of a nursing institute the Government will take over the management of these institutions and see that they are maintained. (Applause.)

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In the various sections of this community different ideas are held as to the most appropriate way of permanently commemorating the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign. It is the longest and the most glorious reign in the history of the British Empire, and the one sentiment which dominates over all others is that of loyalty and devotion to our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria. (Applause.) It is most essential that all sections of this community should pull together on this unique and

auspicious occasion and do what will not only commemorate to future generations this memorable and great historical event, but something which will be worthy of Hongkong and the City of Victoria named, by her gracious permission, after Her Majesty. The three resolutions which are now submitted for your favourable consideration have been carefully drafted and I sincerely hope they will practically meet the wishes of all sections. They read:—

"(1) That the most useful and most befitting manner of permanently commemorating the completion of the sixtieth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria will be to erect a Hospital for women and children and the training of nurses, to be handed over to the Colonial Government, who have undertaken to maintain it in conjunction with and on the same footing as the Government Civil Hospital, and to subscribe towards the completion of the carriage road round the island, the former to be called 'The Victoria Jubilee Hospital,' and the latter 'The Victoria Jubilee Road,' or such other names as may be thought more appropriate by the Committee;

"(2) That this Committee take immediate steps to raise funds from all sections of the community of Hongkong for the purposes mentioned in the preceding resolution, and for local celebrations;

"(3) That the money so collected, together with an equal amount promised by the Colonial Government, be deposited at interest in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in the name of the Jubilee Committee, and be disbursed by them after paying for the local celebrations—one half towards the erection of the Hospital for women and children and the training of nurses and the other half towards the construction of the first section of the carriage road from Kennedytown to Aberdeen which the Government undertakes to commence forthwith and to carry on the remaining portion of the road until completed."

The erection of a hospital for women and children of all ranks, classes, creeds, and races, managed on the same lines as the Government Civil Hospital, and an institute attached for the training of nurses, will, I think, appeal to Her Majesty's sympathies, inasmuch as they will tend to alleviate the sufferings of all subjects of whatever nationality resident in this her far distant colony. The construction and the completion of a carriage road round the island will undoubtedly be of great utility, and will assuredly confer the greatest good and benefit upon the greatest number. There are comparatively few who can afford to live on the higher roads in the City or at the Peak, and the overwhelming majority of the people are compelled to reside on the lower levels throughout the year situated on the north side of the island. During six or seven months out of every twelve the hot and stifling atmosphere of the lower levels of Victoria is extremely trying, and often well nigh unbearable, as the breeze during the summer comes from the south. In his letter to this Committee of 31st March General Black writes:—"I need hardly urge the appropriateness of a road to mark a great occasion; roads are the precursors of progress and civilization; they distinguish a rising from a barbarous state. Roads for recreation and health are one of the great wants in this island, &c." I feel sure you all heartily concur with General Black. The present road to the south owing to its steep gradient is practically prohibitive, but with a good level carriage road private enterprise would speedily provide a tramway running round to Aberdeen as a beginning at prices which would enable all classes to avail of the southern breezes and the cooler temperature on the south side during the hot months of the year. A really good road 30 feet wide with an easy gradient would be an inestimable boon and would materially advance the welfare of the colonists in addition to developing the resources of the colony on the south side of the island. (Applause.)

Mr. GILLIES—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to second the three resolutions just proposed by the Hon. Mr. Whitehead, I am sure that they require nothing further in the way of commendation to recommend them for your approval. Mr. Whitehead has given us a very able and a very

clear idea of the advantages to be obtained from each of the schemes that he has just submitted, and I feel convinced in my own mind that there is nothing more appropriate or more popular with the citizens of Hongkong than the projects which have just been submitted by Mr. Whitehead. (Applause.) We all know the great interest that Her Majesty takes in the hospitals at home. No doubt they have been brought very prominently before her and we all know that she takes a very deep interest in the sufferings and the well being of her loyal subjects. (Applause.) I may also be permitted to say that everything that tends to promote the health and the comfort of her loyal subjects she is also equally alive to and equally ready to support and give her kindness to; and I think the making of a road is a matter that commends itself very strongly to the people of Hongkong. (Applause.) We have only one decent road in the colony for carriages and that is out to Shauiwan, and I think that if we have a road going out to the southern part of the colony it would serve as an outlet not only for the Europeans but to the Chinese, who may seek a little fresh air after the toils and burdens of the day are over. They want a little refreshing breeze, as we all know that Chinatown is very much cramped and there is very little to be met there in the shape of fresh air. Here on the north side of the island the air certainly does not circulate with that freedom that it does on the south side, and I think that anyone who has made a trip to the south part of the island will bear me out in saying that the air there is most conducive to health. It is bracing and more strengthening than that we get upon the north side. The Civil Hospital, I may mention, is a credit to this colony. I do not think you can go to any city in England and find a hospital conducted on better principles than the Civil Hospital in Hongkong. Everything is done to promote the comfort and bring speedy relief to the sufferer. The patients meet with the best of attention and they receive the greatest care at the hands of the medical advisers, and if you look round you will see that the whole building is kept scrupulously clean and in a better condition, I think, than any hospital at home. In regard to the nursing institute, I think that will supply a want that has long been felt in Hongkong. We certainly know the great benefit of having a female nurse at our bedside in time of sickness and trouble. In the old days when a China boy used to hand you the medicine you were always afraid to accept it; you did not know whether he was giving you the medicine the doctor had ordered, neither did you know that he was giving it at the proper time. Now all this is changed and the ladies at the hospital are almost as good as a medical man himself. They follow the instructions of the medical man and are able to render very great service indeed and their kindness and attention tend very much towards the speedy recovery of the patient. I would also remark that I think that all the three projects submitted by Mr. Whitehead have received more general support than any of the other schemes. We have seen more written on these three schemes than on any other project, and I think, judging from that, it proves that the community are more in favour of having this road and the hospital and training institute for nurses carried out than any of the other projects that have been submitted. I therefore have very little further to say. I think that the good points of these projects have been very favourably put before you in the Press and I have now very great pleasure in seconding the resolutions submitted by the Hon. Mr. Whitehead. (Applause.)

Mr. EDE asked if the nurses were going to be available for the public, because if the nursing institute was going to be on the same principle as the Civil Hospital and managed by the Civil Hospital, how were the community going to get the nurses?

The HON. SECRETARY—It is the intention of the Government to obtain nurses from home who will be available for nursing among the general public, and the services of these nurses will be retained until such time

as it is found that nurses trained locally are sufficiently well trained to be able to take their place. (Applause.)

Mr. FRANCIS thought the resolutions embraced too much. It was estimated that the public would subscribe \$50,000 and the Government would offer \$50,000 more. The estimated cost of the construction of the hospital for women and children was \$50,000; there was nothing in the report about the cost of upkeep. It was further estimated that the cost of the training institute would be \$32,000, and the cost of maintenance about \$8,000 or \$9,000. These two schemes would swallow up the whole of the Committee's funds, as the estimates were sure to be exceeded and there would be nothing left for the road. He certainly thought the Committee had no authority for making proposals which involved the future taxation of this colony, and the Committee were practically pledging the community to future taxation. The whole cost of the road would fall upon the Government and it would have to be provided for by increased taxation.

The HON. SECRETARY—Not necessarily.

Mr. FRANCIS said it was not necessarily the case, but everyone knew sufficiently about how things were managed to know that it would be made the object of additional taxation. There would be an increased expenditure of about \$20,000 a year and that would be subjected to 17½ per cent. for the Military Contribution. The total cost of the road would be about \$225,000 and it would be constructed bit by bit; so that those who had contributed towards its construction would not have an opportunity of enjoying it. He thought it was better that the \$100,000 should be devoted to one particular object. He also thought that before the public were asked to subscribe towards the hospital and the nursing institute a definite plan should be submitted to them. He moved the following amendment—"That the amount subscribed by the community and the money to be granted by the Government be applied exclusively toward the construction of the hospital for women and children and for the erection of an institute for the training of nurses, the Government pledging themselves for the maintenance of both."

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS suggested that the subscribers should give to what object they preferred—either the hospital or the road.

Mr. THURBURN said the difficulty could be easily got over. The road was mainly a public work, and it was not yet even known how much the public would subscribe. He suggested that the hospital and the nursing institute be first paid for and if there was any money left it could be handed over to the Government to go towards the cost of the road. If there was no money left the Government would no doubt begin the road.

Hon. F. H. MAY thought some confusion had arisen. Did the Chairman mean to limit the memorial to two proposals—one the hospital and the other the first section of the road?

The CHAIRMAN—In my opening remarks what I meant was that out of the total sum we collect, including the amount contributed by the Government, we shall devote one half, whatever that half may be, to the building of a hospital and the nursing institute is to be worked in conjunction with this hospital.

Mr. FRANCIS—That has nothing to do with the hospital.

The CHAIRMAN—It has a very important bearing as I shall show you. The other half will go towards the commencement of the new road, the Government undertaking to finish the road by degrees. With regard to the nursing institute, probably you may all have observed in the papers which were printed that the Government have as far back as October last taken this matter of nursing in hand; in fact they have already started in a small way a nursing institute and at the present moment—we have it in Dr. Atkinson's evidence. He says: "We have probationers in the nursing institute and they are trained in the Civil Hospital." What I pointed out to his Excellency was that the Government had seen the necessity for the Institute and had taken the matter in hand by having probationers in the Hospital, and by having more nurses from home those ladies would help to educate more probationers to carry on nursing in the colony. That is as far as the

Hospital and the Nursing Institute is concerned. When this Hospital is ready we can take in more probationers and these probationers would be educated in this new Hospital. The balance of \$50,000 would go a long way towards carrying on the road from Belcher's Bay to Aberdeen and the Governor says in his letter that by degrees that road would be completed by the Government. If you attempt to separate the two schemes I fear you will cause a schism in the whole community. There are gentlemen who are very strongly of opinion that the road should be taken in hand at once in celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, and there are others who are equally as strong in the opinion that the hospital should be taken in hand. By doing what we propose we shall not only please Her Majesty, but we satisfy the community and we do honour to the colony. If you divide the schemes I fear your subscriptions will be small, and probably not one of the projects will come to anything.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said perhaps it would be as well, with a view to obtaining unanimity, if the consideration of the resolutions were deferred for eight days.

Mr. FRANCIS again read his amendment and said that when the Chairman referred to the hospital and the nursing institute he thought the two institutions mentioned in the report were meant.

The CHAIRMAN—What I meant is that whether the two institutions are going to cost \$100,000 or \$180,000, we only pledge ourselves to give half of what we get, including the sum from the Government.

Mr. FRANCIS said there was no security in that. Let the money be applied to completion of something and do not let it depend upon the whims of future Governors or future Directors of Public Works.

The CHAIRMAN thought the letter of His Excellency the Governor was a sufficient security.

Mr. CRAWFORD seconded Mr. Francis's amendment on the ground that the project Mr. Francis had mentioned would be more pleasing to Her Majesty.

The amendment was then put and lost by 13 votes to 4.

Mr. SMITH then proposed an amendment that the road scheme only be adopted.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS seconded.

The amendment was lost, only four voting in favour of it.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's resolutions were then put and carried; only two—Mr. Francis and Mr. Mehta—voted against them.

The CHAIRMAN then read the following letters he had received from various sections of the community:

Dear Sir,—I have the authority of all German firms residing in this colony to inform you of their desire to offer their heartiest co-operation in any scheme to be decided upon to celebrate the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, and I beg to request you kindly to communicate this to your Committee.—I am, &c.,

M. GROTE.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Permit me, on behalf of myself and the greater number of the seniors among the Portuguese residents in this colony, whom I have had the opportunity of consulting, to assure you that they are prepared to co-operate with your Committee and with the community generally in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen Empress. We entertain for Her Majesty the highest admiration and respect and most fully appreciate the beneficent rule under which we live.

I consider the Portuguese community would be failing in their duty if they should allow this opportunity to pass by without tendering their warmest congratulations on this occasion, as their interests are, in many ways, closely connected with the prosperity of this colony, and without acknowledging with gratitude the many benefits and blessings derived from a good and peaceful government.—I am, &c.,

A. G. ROMANO.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1897.

Sir,—In the public rejoicings in celebration of the 60th year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, shortly to take place

in this colony, we, the undersigned, citizens of the United States of America and residents in the colony, would request to be permitted to join and to contribute a share towards the necessary expenditure.

We would wish to do so because as residents we cannot fail to appreciate the blessings of Her Majesty's Government and acknowledge that we and our predecessors have shared in the prosperity which has attended the growth of the colony.

Quite apart from the desire individually animating us to assist in the proposed demonstration there is another and a broader aspect of the question. We feel that we would be wanting in duty towards our own country if we here failed to show by this, our present action, that we recognize the reverent feeling towards Her Majesty which is held by all our people wherever situated, for by no nation is she more respected than by the United States.

—We are, sir, your most obedient servants,
(Here follow the signatures of the American residents.)

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN next announced that His Excellency the Governor had consented to the election of additional members on the Committee.

Mr. FRANCIS proposed that two members of the German community, two of the American, and two of the Portuguese be elected on the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said gentlemen representing those nationalities had been asked to serve on the Committee, but they said they preferred not to, although they would most heartily join in everything the Committee did on the subject.

THE ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

It was then resolved that the final draft of the Address to Her Majesty be prepared if no suggestions were sent to the sub-Committee within the next three days.

THE GILDING OF THE QUEEN'S STATUE.

The CHAIRMAN—One of the schemes submitted to the sub-Committee was in regard to the gilding of Her Majesty's Statue and the putting of a railing round it. In case this Committee decide that the statue shall be gilded the Dock Company are prepared to do so without any cost. (Loud applause.) I may also mention on the authority of the Director of Public Works that some time ago the Government thought of putting a railing round the statue and plans had been prepared and they were only waiting for a meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Legislative Council to bring the matter up for final decision.

Mr. EDE thought it would be a folly to gild the Queen's statue. A statue designed of bronze should be left so.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Mr. Raggi, the sculptor, was of opinion that gilding the statue would improve it.

Mr. COXON hoped that the railings would be placed on the bottom steps and not on the top. If they were placed on the top steps the statue would be like a drinking fountain and people would want tin cans and chains fixed at once.

Hon. F. A. COOPER said the railings would be placed on the bottom steps.

THANKS TO HIS EXCELLENCY AND THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—A very hearty vote of thanks ought to be accorded to his Excellency the Governor for the important services he has rendered in connection with the work we have in hand. But for his Excellency's assistance our duties would have been more arduous than they have been. (Applause.) Thanks are also due to the sub-Committee who have rendered such excellent services.

The CHAIRMAN—With regard to the vote of thanks to his Excellency the Governor it need not be seconded at all; it will, I am sure, be carried by acclamation. (Applause.) As far as the sub-Committee are concerned I am sure our work has only just begun and thanks may be given to us when everything is carried out successfully. (Applause.)

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

The CHAIRMAN said the subscription list would be started at once and he trusted the

members of the Committee would give it a good start. The more that was given the more would the Government give.

This concluded the business and the Committee adjourned.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 22nd April. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided and there were also present Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clarke (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary.)

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

HON. F. A. COOPER'S PROMOTION.

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES.

Mr. EDE—Before the ordinary business of the meeting begins I would like, with your permission, to say a few words. I understand this is the last occasion on which we shall have the pleasure and advantage of your presence, and I think the Board should not fail to record its appreciation of the services you have rendered to this Board. Notwithstanding some of the adverse opinions which have from time to time been expressed with regard to the constitution and efficiency of this Board and with its actions, I contend it has done excellent, good, and solid work with very beneficial general results; and I think my colleagues will bear me out when I say that a considerable portion of those good results are due to your energy and assiduity. We regret very much your departure from amongst us and wish you health, wealth, and prosperity in your new appointment. I now wish to move a resolution for the approval of the members of the Board, and I may mention that I have shown the resolution to the Registrar-General, who is a member of this Board, and he asked me to say that he concurs in it entirely and regrets very much that he is personally not able to be present here to-day to vote for it. The resolution is—“This Board desires to tender to you on your approaching departure from the colony, its cordial thanks for the invaluable services which you have rendered to the Board during the many years you have been connected with it first as its surveyor, then as a member, and finally as its President; and to express its deep appreciation of the unflinching industry, devotion to duty, and conspicuous ability which you have ever displayed in furthering the cause of sanitation in this colony.”

Hon. F. H. MAY—Mr. President, having been associated with you in a good deal of the work in connection with this Board, I should like to second the resolution. When I was at home the other day I happened to be in the society of a gentleman who was intimately acquainted with a very eminent engineer who not long ago was in this colony. The gentleman whom I met did not know you, sir, but he questioned me about you and he said that his friend the engineer had remarked to him that he was astonished at the magnitude of the public works in this colony and at the business-like and efficient way in which they were carried out. I mention that fact here, sir, because, having myself admired your work in this colony, I was especially pleased to hear this independent criticism from an outside and thoroughly competent authority. In Hongkong people are somewhat inclined to run down everything that we have here. Our drainage system, according to them, is the worst possible, and our Praya Reclamation is badly and slowly constructed, and so on and so on; but we find, sir, if we enter into conversation with outsiders who visit the colony, especially men who can, by their professional training, form an opinion, that they, at any rate, do not join in the same captious remarks of our fellow colonists. Sir, you will leave behind you, I think, many standing memorials of your work here in the cause of sanitation and the promotion of public health. We want three things to make a place healthy: one is good drains, another is good water, and the third is good ventilation. You have kept all these objects steadily in view. We have as fine a drainage system—at least so our Medical Officer of Health tells us—as could

be devised; and I may mention that in England I heard it said by a sanitary engineer that he believed that Hongkong had shown the way in the tropics by adopting the separate system of drainage and he expressed the hope that other tropical places would follow her example. It is not often, sir, that Hongkong leads the way, and I feel sure that you will be proud to know that it is the opinion of some that in this important matter of drainage she has shown the way. Your system of drainage, sir, has been criticised, but I must say that, as far as my experience goes, most of the criticism has been of a very ignorant nature. I have heard men discuss and criticise the drainage system of this colony who, on being questioned, plainly showed they had not the faintest idea of what the expression “separate system of drainage” really means. Then, sir, I go on to the second heading—good water. I believe we have the best, and as far as I could ascertain—when I was at home I went into the subject of rates and taxes in various cities in which I happened to be—I believe it is the cheapest water supply that any town in the world possesses. You not only carried out the construction and furnishing of a water supply in Kowloon and many villages in this colony in a very able manner, but you have put the whole waterworks of the Colony on a most satisfactory financial basis. I wish to goodness that the Hongkong waterworks were in the hands of a public company and that I had a few thousand shares in it. I would not be long in Hongkong; I would wend my way home to my native country. Then with regard to air and ventilation. In that respect we have a standing memorial of your work in the Taipingshan reclamation area, upon which you have devoted much time and which bids fair to become quite a model settlement in this city. It is not only in the city that you have done good work in that direction. Every village almost in Hongkong, and especially the villages in the Kowloon peninsula, bear testimony to the good work which you have done in the same direction there. It was only yesterday that I traversed most of the Kowloon peninsula and I must say that the way in which the villages there have been transformed within the last two years from the most evil-smelling rookeries into well laid out, comfortable, and model villages is something marvellous. I do not think, sir, that I need refer to any of the other important services which you have rendered in the interests of sanitation in this colony. I have only, individually for myself, as a person who has been on this Board for many years and who has done what little he could in the interest of the public health, to express my deep appreciation of the very valuable services which you have rendered to the cause of sanitation in this colony.

Mr. EDE then put the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

The PRESIDENT—Well, gentlemen, I do not wish to take up the time of the Board at any length, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking you most sincerely for the very kind remarks you have made in connection with my endeavours to promote the welfare of the colony. As a member of this Board, and subsequently as President, and also as Director of Public Works, I have to thank the members of the Board for the courteous consideration and assistance which they have at all times given me in attempting to promote the sanitation of this colony. Sanitary improvements are as a rule carried on with considerable opposition. It is not all at once that persons see the ultimate gain which they are going to derive from the expenditure incurred. But I think that in all we have done we have tried to be practical, and unless sanitary authorities are practical in their suggestions it is really of no use attempting to gain the public confidence. The Secretary to the Sanitary Board has kindly given me a table showing the death rates during the last fifteen years, and I think a study of this is very interesting. This Board was constituted under Ordinance 24, of 1887, which came in force in May, 1888, and I find that the average death rate for five years ending 1886 was 29.4 per thousand per annum. The maximum death rate for that period was 32.4 and the minimum 26.1. For the next five years the average death rate per thousand per annum

was reduced to 26.2, the highest being in 1889, when it was 31.6. For the last five years, notwithstanding the two epidemics of plague which unfortunately visited this colony in 1894 and 1896, the average death rate per thousand per annum was 24.4, the maximum being in 1894, when it was 30.3, or rather less than the maximum for the five years previous to the existence of this Board, when we had no epidemic of a similar nature, and the minimum was in 1893, when the rate was 21.5. In 1895, when a few cases of plague occurred in this colony, the death rate was only 21.9. These are practical results which I must say are very satisfactory indeed to the Board. As it is considered that the population of this colony is approximately 250,000 persons, a saving of five per thousand per annum means no less than 1,250 lives saved per annum. It would be quite out of the question for me to attempt to review the various works done by the Board since its existence in 1888, but since its constitution the drainage and the water supply have been placed on a satisfactory basis and the powers conferred on the Board by the Public Health Ordinance have been enforced. That the work of this Board is not done is only too clear, and although a considerable reduction has been made in the death rate I look forward with confidence to a still further reduction, and although I regret I shall be no longer connected with this Board I shall look forward to a reduction with a great deal of pleasure. Gentlemen, I have now to thank you most sincerely for the resolution which you have just passed.

PLAGUE AT BOMBAY.

The official return from Bombay showed that from March 4th to March 17th the number of cases of plague in that city was 1,196 and the number of deaths 1,048.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 10th inst. the death rate was 14.1 against 28.6 for the corresponding period of last year, and for the week ended 17th inst. the rate was 14.5 as against 24.4 for the corresponding period of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

CIVIL SERVICE COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO THE HON. F. A. COOPER.

A most successful gathering of Civil Servants took place on Saturday evening in the City Hall for the purpose of bidding farewell to the Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, who leaves soon for Ceylon, amongst those present being H.E. Sir William Robinson, Sir J. Carrington, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. W. M. Goodman, Hon. A. M. Thomson, Hon. F. H. May, Hon. R. M. Ramsey, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Clark, Dr. Wright, and Messrs. Wodehouse, Bowdler, Chatham, Dennys, Kyshe, Seth, A. J. May, G. Stafford Northcote, McCallum, Duggan, Arthur, Prosser, F. Hazeland, E. M. Hazeland, Gibbs, Chapman, Drury, Crook, Tatcher, Sercombe Smith, Platt, Browne, Gale, Mudie, Hollingsworth, Boulton, Knox, Badeley, Wood, &c.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART was Chairman and the Hon. W. M. GOODMAN acted as Croupier.

The dining hall and verandahs were prettily decorated with flags, flowers, pot plants, and lanterns, and although it was a hot night this was not allowed to interfere with the pleasure of the evening.

The company sat down to an excellent dinner, the service of which was a credit to Mr. Bishop of the "Grill."

After dinner the CHAIRMAN proposed the toast of the Queen, which was duly honoured. The next toast proposed by the Chairman was that of H. E. the Governor, and in acknowledging a most hearty reception His EXCELLENCY reminded those present that Mr. Cooper and himself were that evening the only guests, and as the chief end of the assembly was to do honour to the Director of Public Works he asked to be considered of least importance on this occasion so that he might use the utmost brevity in replying.

After His EXCELLENCY had concluded the Hon. W. M. GOODMAN rose to propose the toast of the evening. He said—Your Excellency,

Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, having duly shown our loyalty and respect to Her Majesty and to His Excellency the Governor, Her Majesty's representative in the colony, in the two preceding toasts, it now becomes my pleasant duty to propose what may fairly be called the special toast of the evening, viz., "Our Guest, the Honourable F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works." It is, now, more than seven years since I arrived in Hongkong as Attorney-General. It did not take me long to become acquainted with most of the members of the Civil Service here, and among the various excellent gentlemen belonging to that fraternity there was one man who specially seemed to me to join great ability to an indefatigable capacity for work, and to possess, moreover, those staunch and sterling qualities which form the basis on which true friendship should be built. I allude, of course, to our present Director of Public Works. It always seemed to me that, unless his health broke down from overwork, there must be a most honourable and useful career before him. Well, gentlemen, Mr. Cooper's promotion—his well earned promotion—at a comparatively early age, to the important post to which he has been appointed in so large and so important a colony as Ceylon, shows that the Right Hon. the Secretary of State has appreciated his merit, and, though we shall be sorry to lose him from Hongkong, I venture to predict that, in the course of time, his ability and sterling qualities will be recognised in Ceylon as they have been in this colony. I must not, however, further embarrass our guest by discussing, in his presence, his excellent points as a private individual, but I should like to call attention to some of his work as a public official, and I may, I think, without wearying you, well compare, from a sanitary point of view, the state of things existing some nine or ten years ago, when he arrived in the colony, with the present condition of affairs. I will take some half dozen instances. First, as regards the water supply (and seeing the excellent provision of wine to-night, it will do us no harm, at least, to talk about water). When Mr. Cooper arrived, the Tytam reservoir and its magnificent aqueduct were practically completed, but there existed no adequate means of distributing the additional supply of water thus secured. Mr. Cooper's excellent report, amended by Mr. Chadwick, having been approved by Sir Robert Rawlinson, this work has been carried out to completion, with pumping stations, house service, and public fountains. Not only has the town of Victoria been supplied, but also the Peak, which has necessitated providing means of forcing the water to a height of between 1,700 and 1,800 feet. The Pokfulam conduit filter beds were constructed by Mr. Cooper, and thus not only water, but first class filtered water was supplied to the public. The excellent Kowloon water system is also his work, and if any one wants to know what provision is being made for the future, let him read Mr. Cooper's admirable report on the whole subject of our water supply, which is dated 9th May last and is an excellent specimen of the thoroughness of his work. Secondly, as regards drainage. When Mr. Cooper arrived, practically nothing had been done since Mr. Chadwick, in his report of 1882, had pointed out the radically defective character of the system then in force. Suffice it to say, this is now entirely changed. The separate system has been carried out, and when the Praya and its drains are finished I feel confident the public will fully appreciate the immense improvement which has been effected. Here I may mention that, as the carrying out of the water distribution and the drainage works necessitated the laying of nearly 30 miles of pipes, in each case, it is difficult to see how this was to be done without considerable excavation in the roads. This inconvenience used to afford much opportunity for "smart" letter writing to the Press, and the Director of Public Works used accordingly to be held up as a kind of monster who was always digging trenches to annoy the community. Thirdly, as to markets. Any one who now visits the Central Market (which, except as regards its foundations, was erected under Mr. Cooper's regime) and contrasts it with the so-called markets of ten years ago, will realize what a change has been effected in this important matter. Fourthly, as to the

cattle depots and slaughter houses. It is true that, ten years ago, the law, as now, forbade the slaughter of animals unfit for food, but the wily Chinaman who perceived amongst his beasts an animal that might have sat for a photograph of one of Pharaoh's lean kine generally managed to get it slaughtered, and eaten, too, by the innocent European colonists, to the great injury of their digestion. Now, however, our cattle depot forms the only gate through which sheep and cattle can enter the colony and at that portal stands the Inspector whose duty is to prevent the ingress or the slaughter of unsuitable animals. Each animal must now be marked and passed before being slaughtered. The admirable depots were Mr. Cooper's work. Fifthly, as to buildings. Ten years ago the old Building Ordinance of 1856 was still in force. A year or more after Mr. Cooper's arrival the Building Ordinance of 1889 was passed while he was acting as Surveyor-General, and although some subsequent legislation has been required, the abuses which formerly existed are no longer permitted, and builders of houses are compelled to take into consideration, at all events to some extent, the sanitary requirements of the colony, and not only to scheme how to extract the largest rental from the smallest piece of ground. Sixthly, as regards the Recreation Ground. Ten years ago the race-course was where it is now, but the space inside it was partly a dismal swamp and partly a vast pond. I am told one might see an occasional snipe there, or once in a while a few of those remarkable athletes who rather like playing football in water up to their ankles. The great improvements which, at a large cost, have turned that swamp and pond into an admirable recreation ground where cricket, football, golf, and other healthy sports are regularly indulged in, were carried out under Mr. Cooper's auspices. I must not weary you with other matters, but if I had had time I would have spoken more fully of the heavy labour involved in the Praya Reclamation and its complicated accounts, of which I saw something when I was Acting Colonial Secretary in 1891. Complaints are sometimes made of its slow progress, and that, too, by the very people who three or four years back petitioned for the discontinuance of the work and thus considerably delayed its execution. Nor must I do more than allude to the extremely heavy work connected with the Taipingshan Resumption and the enormous crop of arbitration cases, in which I found Mr. Cooper's aid simply invaluable; indeed the chief share of the work fell upon his shoulders. In the midst of his labours he took a short holiday and went, to England. I think it is Tennyson who wrote:—"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." However this may be, our Director of Public Works did not return to the colony alone, and we who have the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Cooper cannot but feel how great will be our social loss when she, too, has left Hongkong for another colony. Well, gentlemen, if I have bestowed some praise upon our worthy guest it will do him no harm. There were times when it was the fashion, among a certain section of the public, to run him down and treat him as the scapegoat of the official circle. That time has long since gone by. It is not every man who has a smile and a "yes" at the tip of his tongue for every applicant who comes with some unreasonable request, advantageous to himself but detrimental to the interests of the community. Mr. Cooper has often had to say "no," because he was acting in the interests of the public; and people who have the courage to say "no," and say it decisively, are apt, temporarily at least, to make enemies. I feel sure, however, that by this time people of that class have learnt to see that their requests were unreasonable, and our gathering in Mr. Cooper's honour to-night shows how highly he is appreciated by those who know him best. It was Shakespeare who said—"The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." Our Director of Public Works is, however, fortunate in this respect, that the good work he has carried out in this colony will not be interred with him; but will, I feel sure, bear excellent fruit in the future and make Hongkong a healthier place than it has ever been before. Gentlemen, I give you the

toast of "Our Guest, the Director of Public Works."

The toast was received with the greatest acclamation, ringing cheers being given again and again, with a finishing one for Mrs. Cooper.

Mr. COOPER on rising to reply was again heartily received. He said—Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I rise to thank you most heartily for the very cordial manner in which you have received the toast proposed by my learned friend the Attorney-General. It is needless for me to say that on such an occasion as this I find it extremely difficult to adequately thank you. Words would altogether fail to express the gratification that I feel in seeing around me so many members of the service to which I have had the privilege of belonging for the last nine years. The honour that you have done me in assembling here this evening to entertain me before my departure for Ceylon I most respectfully appreciate. Indeed it is impossible for me to imagine any more gratifying act on your part, for I value most highly the assurance which your presence here gives me that those with whom I have been associated in the performance of my duties appreciate my endeavours to promote the welfare of this colony, to uphold the position of the Department over which I preside, and to maintain the credit of the profession to which I belong. As to how far I have been successful in those endeavours it is not for me to judge. From the references just made by Mr. Goodman to the work done by the Public Works Department one might think that the credit of such work during recent years is entirely due to me, but it is not so, for I have had the good fortune and pleasure to have had associated with me an able and competent staff and one on whose loyalty I could always depend. As you are aware, the duties of the offices I have held have been of a multifarious nature. I suppose at one time or another I have been associated in the performance of those duties with members of every Government Department in the colony, and I take this opportunity of thanking them one and all for the courteous consideration and assistance that they have extended to me. I do not propose to enumerate the important public works that have been carried out during recent years in this colony, nor need I refer to those that are at present being constructed, or to those which I consider should be undertaken in the near future, as information concerning such matters will be found in the published annual reports of the Public Works Department. However much my promotion may be the subject for congratulation I cannot leave this colony without many regrets, but you will have in my successor, Mr. Ormsby, a gentleman of some thirty years' experience in Colonial Engineering Works and who has for several years past occupied a high position in the Ceylon Public Works Department. The parting with friends, both social and professional, is always hard to bear, but in this instance my wife and I will find some consolation in the thought that, pending the construction of the great trunk railway across the Empire of China, Ceylon may be looked upon as a halfway house on the journey to England, and in hoping that the kind friends we are leaving behind will afford us an opportunity of renewing from time to time their friendship in our new home. Whatever may have been the various opinions expressed as regards this colony, its healthiness, its government, its public works, I confidently look forward to its future welfare, and in doing so with your kind permission I have the honour to propose "The Prosperity of the colony of Hongkong and its Dependencies." Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I will ask you to drink to "The Prosperity of Hongkong and its Dependencies."

The company did full justice to the toast, and although it was outside official hours the Colonial Secretary obeyed the request of His Excellency the Governor to reply, and quite rose to the occasion with an excellent and happy speech.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the health of the Secretary, and in returning thanks Mr. WOOD said it was the greatest possible pleasure, especially to any officer of the Public Works

Department, to have an opportunity of doing anything towards honouring their departing chief, and to best express the sentiment of Mr. Cooper's subordinates Mr. Wood stated that if each officer in the Department consulted and obeyed his own inclination he would willingly pack up and accompany Mr. Cooper to Ceylon. Outside his own efforts to secure the success of the evening Mr. Wood acknowledged the willing and valuable aid of one of Hongkong's most popular Service men, Mr. Sercombe Smith.

Messrs. Lockhart, Goodman, F. H. May, Platt, and A. J. May with music, &c., added to the pleasure of a most successful evening, which terminated by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne."

HONGKONG POLO CLUB.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Polo Club took place at the Hongkong Club on Monday evening, 19th April, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, the senior member of the Club, in the chair, and Captain P. de S. Burney, R.A., Vice-Chairman. Captain F. H. May, C.M.G., through indisposition, and several other playing members were unavoidably prevented from being present, but twenty sat down and did ample justice to a dinner well up to the standard of excellence the Hongkong Club is noted for.

The CHAIRMAN in submitting "The Queen" said it was unnecessary on such occasions to recommend this toast, but 1897 commemorates a memorable epoch which is attracting the attention and evoking the sympathies of the whole civilised world. The sixty years' reign of Her Gracious Majesty is the longest and the most glorious in the history of the British Empire. The one sentiment which dominates all others is that of loyalty and devotion to our Sovereign, Lady Queen Victoria, and we fervently hope Her Majesty will live long, for the honour and the glory of Her Empire and for the welfare of the people committed to her charge.

The toast was drunk in "bumpers" with great enthusiasm.

Mr. WHITEHEAD said they would all be rejoiced to know that the genial Captain Loveband, who had been laid up with typhoid fever, was now on the fair way to convalescence. The popular and gallant Captain was one of the most brilliant players and one of the hardest hitters they had ever had and a warm welcome awaited Loveband's return to the Polo ground at Causeway Bay.

The CHAIRMAN in proposing "The health of the winning team" referred to the trite saying, called to mind by Mr. Platt at the "farewell" or "send off" the Club in their small way endeavoured to extend to the First Battalion of the Rifle Brigade who left Hongkong in November last, that "there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it." The speaker on that occasion thought that we should have to fish over many wide seas, nay, illimitable oceans, before we came across such a gallant band of sportsmen as we were then trying to honour, and believe me, gentlemen, we were at that time as regards the future of our sport very despondent and much down on our luck. But several kept their shoulders to the wheel and trusted to time and to Providence, and that we have been fortunate and most kindly dealt with goes without saying. "The Prince of Wales' Own" have not been very long with us, but long enough to convince us that they are keen and eminent supporters of Polo and of every other manly sport. This afternoon the West Yorkshire team had given a display of excellent Polo and by their superior combination and by playing the game according to rule had deservedly won on their merits, the Cup presented by Mr. May, the competitions for which had so much improved the play of the Club generally. Let us drink the health and continued prosperity of the West Yorkshire team, and couple the toast with the name of their captain. Mr. Wood is one of the best players we have ever seen on the ground, and in addition is one of the best all round athletes in Hongkong.

The toast was received with prolonged cheers, and the singing of "For they are jolly good fellows."

Mr. WOOD said—Mr. Whitehead and gentlemen, in the name of our Polo team I beg to

thank you very heartily for the kind way in which you have drunk our health. I think every member of the Polo Club will agree with me when I say that the Club owes a great debt of gratitude to Mr. May for presenting a Cup to be played for every three months by teams in Hongkong. There is no doubt that in doing so he has greatly improved the class of polo played here. When teams know that there is a Cup to be won, they practise hard to play well together, and pay more attention to the combination of the team than to individual play. Rules are more strictly observed, and men stick to their places in the field instead of riding about with the sole object of having a smack at the ball. In proposing the health of the losing teams, I desire to couple the toast with the name of our most hard-working Acting Secretary, Captain Burney. He worked hard to win the Cup with the R. A. team, whom we were lucky enough to defeat by a very narrow margin just on the stroke of time. Every one who played in the final must have noticed what an improvement had been made in the ground, an improvement entirely due to the trouble taken by our Secretary. Gentlemen, I propose the health of the losing teams, coupled with the name of the gallant and sporting Captain Burney. (Cheers and applause).

Captain BURNLEY said—Mr. Wood, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I rise to return thanks for the very kind way you have drunk the health of the losers. It has been my doubtful pleasure to have been now four times among the vanquished. I have tried to be in the winning team, but so far I have not been successful and I regret to see the Gunner team decaying out of sight. It has been my one great desire to win the Cup with an R. A. team and I mean to be successful yet. Every new Gunner that comes here will, I hope, join the Polo Club, until we can again place a team in the arena and this time to win. I am glad to say that there are no signs of decay in the Hongkong Polo Club. At the present moment we have twenty playing, six prospective playing, and twenty non-playing members, which I think is a very good representation for this small colony. Gentlemen, I trust that out of all these players we may next Tournament be able to raise four teams. If I can possibly put an R. A. team in I will and I look to Mr. Whitehead to inspire the civilian element with the example of his own praiseworthy ardour to put a Civilian team in. If any one can do so there is no doubt he will. As a supporter of the game and as a supporter of the Club none can be found to equal him and I therefore, gentlemen, have much pleasure in coupling his name with my toast of "Success to the Hongkong Polo Club" and let us drink it in Highland honours.

Mr. WHITEHEAD in the course of replying remarked it was unfortunate for the Club that Mr. May had been prevented from being present as his Irish wit and great fund of humour was ever welcome. It could not be on account of his grey locks, because he possessed few of any colour, that he found himself year after year in the honourable position of their Chairman. Still locks or no locks, he fully intended to do all he possibly could to keep the ball rolling while he had the privilege of being one of them. It is impossible to overestimate the great and growing importance of outdoor sports and games in the life of the British people. They undoubtedly tend to bind men and communities together by common interests and common sympathies. The great development and keen general interest now taken in athletics is rather a revival of what used to prevail in England than a novelty. This movement in which so many men are involved is heartily to be welcomed, and it is gratifying to find that the ancient instincts of the British race are reasserting themselves. From a physiological point of view the popularity of various forms of strenuous muscular exercise is a national good of almost inestimable value, as the tendency of town life is to deteriorate mankind. The individual does wither in the counting house and at the mill, but he does flourish on the cricket field, on the polo ground, and on kindred fields of sport and recreation. He not only flourishes physically but he reasserts his manhood, and is enabled to enter into new and healthier relations and competition

with his fellow men. The English are a horse loving nation and as horses take a prominent part in the game it is not surprising that our men have taken as enthusiastically to Polo as ducks take to water. Adventure is still dear to the hearts of the many who agree with Lindsay Gordon that—

No game was ever yet worth a rap
For rational man to play,
In which no disaster, no mishap,
Could possibly find its way.

Though sometimes sneered at, the China pony is not only very useful, but he is also distinctly averse to colliding, hence our having escaped during the last eleven years from serious accident. Mr. Jorrocks said "untin" is the sport of kings, the "himage" of war, and all the gilt "with only 25 per cent. of the danger," and he also reminded those who were in the habit of turning up late for the start that punctuality is the "purliteness of Princes." I deplore that so few civilians join the ranks of our playing members, and I cannot comprehend why they delay in their own interests and for our mutual benefit. Polo was introduced here by the gallant and sporting Major Walter Fletcher, a distinguished officer in the Royal Artillery, and not only at home, but in India, America, Australia, the Cape and elsewhere, it is steadily gaining a firmer root and a stronger hold in public favour. It occupies a unique position in the field of sports and games, inasmuch as it partakes of the best qualities of both. A well developed body and a well informed mind are necessary partners for intellectual and material triumphs, and nothing contributes so much in their favour as the health giving exercise which the exhilarating and noble game yields. Our friendly contests inspire good fellowship, the very wine of life, and tend to make us all boys of equal age, a joy to each other, a praise to them who do well, and a terror to evil doers. I could go on talking for an hour on the happy memories associated with the game and of the rare good fellows in successive Regiments who have helped so materially to keep the sport alive and flourishing, but the night is far advanced. In one word, let me say that in no Regiment have we had more thorough or more eminent sportsmen than we find in the West Yorkshire. I give you the toast of "Sport," coupled with the name of the genial and soldierly Major Grant Dalton. (Prolonged cheers).

Major GRANT DALTON said—Mr. Whitehead and gentlemen, I thank you most cordially for your Chairman's highly complimentary references to my Regiment, and for the kind manner in which you have received them. I rejoice in that sport flourishes in Hongkong, as all healthy recreation not only tends to make man full of life, but renders him capable of appreciating some of its purest and greatest pleasures. The ordinary China pony may not be a handsome animal, but his usefulness, pluck, and endurance are greatly to be admired. I heartily appreciate the kind and sporting feeling in which we have been received in Hongkong, and thank you again for the honour you have done me in coupling my name with the toast of "Sport," which includes our many grand games. I sincerely hope that "Sport" will live long here and elsewhere. (Applause).

A number of other toasts were proposed, including the health of Mr. May, of the Naval playing members, to which Commanders Smith Dorrian and the Hon. G. A. Hardinge replied, the health of the "ladies," to which as the youngest present Mr. C. W. Gordon responded in a humorous and witty but brief speech, followed by several songs, and a convivial evening terminated with the singing of "An'd Lang Syne."

A horrible sight was witnessed near the upper Waterfall on Saturday afternoon (10th April), says the *Hingo News*. Having divested himself of most of his clothing, a man cut his throat deeply on the right side and followed it up with a *harakiri* slash below. He was still living when found, and a regular crowd gathered at the spot before he was removed to the hospital. The would-be suicide is said to have been a laundryman who offended both his customers and his colleagues in the recent troubles.

THE JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for the last half year;—

Singapore, 15th April, 1897.

To the shareholders of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited.
Your Directors beg to submit a statement of the Company's accounts for the period from August 9th, 1896, to February 2nd, 1897, being the second half of the eighth year of the Company's existence by the Chinese calendar. The accounts show a loss on the half year of \$20,006.48.

JELEBU.

All advancing on alluvial mines has been stopped. The inferior quality of the labour and the low price of tin had continued to make the business too risky. All outstanding advances (\$10,943) have been written off. A portion of these may, however, be recovered, arrangements having been made with towkays to work the mines. The Company will pay cash on delivery of ore only, or may advance against visible ore or other good security. Further losses through advances should not occur. The store-business has also been closed, as, through the stopping of advances, the turnover had become so small as to be unremunerative. A further report by expert metallurgists on the 25 tons of lodestuff from the Rinode has been received, confirming in substance the favourable preliminary report referred to in the report of the previous half year. Prospecting operations have been continued on the lines of Mr. Bibby's recommendations. These will, it is expected, be soon advanced sufficiently to admit of a final decision being arrived at as regards working this lode. The prospects seem very promising. The lode outlay written off would have been greater but for the fact that all tin won during the operations has been credited to this account. If the lode is to be worked, the question may arise whether the unemployed funds (about \$100,000) are sufficient to provide for full working capital.

MALIWUN.

As anticipated in the last report little progress has been made during the period under review. Prospecting work has been carried on on a small scale, leading to discoveries of some alluvial ground which, with a constant water supply, would, it is believed, be payable. Mines, previously opened, continue, also in the absence of a constant water-supply, to give moderate returns only. The absence of water during too great a part of the year seems, so far, to be the main obstacle against alluvial mining by Chinese and natives on similar lines to those adopted in the Federated Malay States. Investigations are being made as to the best manner of remedying this. The North Hill range has been further prospected and shows favourable indications. The small shipment of quartz, referred to in the last report, has been sent to Europe to be crushed, and telegraphic information has been received that the results, so far obtained, justify a favourable view of the prospects. As soon as further supplementary advices by letter are to hand, careful calculations will be made as to the probable results of working this lode.

General.—In the main, the Company must look to lode mining. In the meantime, and pending lode development, it is the policy to promote general business, as trading in ore, opium, liquors, and in forest-produce, and in general to conduct operations on such a basis as to make expenses. This policy has been already followed during the last half year, and it will be found from the accounts that, not taking into account the losses on advances and cost of lode-prospecting, the result of trading has been a small profit which, it is hoped, will gradually increase.

ACCOUNTS.

After writing off the usual depreciation for plant, \$10,943 for Jelebu advances, \$1,771 for Maliwun advances, \$8,785 for work upon lodes at Jelebu and Maliwun, there remains at the debit of profit and loss account the sum of \$20,006.48, which sum, together with \$6,781.10 from the previous half year, your Directors propose to be carried forward.

DIRECTORS AND AUDITOR.

In accordance with the Articles of Association Mr. A. Reid retires from the Board, but offers himself for re-election. In consequence of the departure of Mr. MacBean there is another vacancy on the Board. The shareholders are invited to fill the vacancy at the general meeting. The auditor, Mr. A. J. Gunn, retires from office, but offers himself for re-election.

J. P. JOAQUIM, } Directors.
ARNOT REID, }

HUTTENBACH BROS. & Co., General Agents.

RAUB.

The Manager's Report for the five weeks ending on 7th April, 1897, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole Section.—In the 220 feet level, the work of extending the different levels is proceeding satisfactorily. In the main level going south, we have not yet succeeded in cutting the main ore-chute, although we are in much further than where I had expected to do so. The ground for the last 30 feet is very much disturbed and thrown about by two cross-courses; what effect these may have on the course of the ore-chute it is difficult to say. It is my intention to continue the level for some distance further: it is now in 380 feet from the crosscut. In the stopes coming in over the back of this level from the No. 2 winze, the lode is from 6 to 8 inches wide, and carries a little gold, but we are hardly up to the main ore-chute yet. There is a large extent of good ground to take out from here to the intermediate drive. In the stopes over the intermediate drive, we are now getting near the top edge of the ore-chute. The lode is small, 4 to 6 inches, but carries very good gold. In the main drive going north there is no change to report; the ground still continues very hard black slate with about 4 inches of a lode formation, but no gold. I do not expect to get gold in this drive till I get a decided change in the country. In the crosscut going west from the engine shaft there is no change in the country rock; since we passed through the gold-bearing formation at 125 feet in from the shaft. The country is hard black slate. It is my intention to shortly open out on the gold-bearing formation to see what it is like; there is a good deal of water making from it, which I consider to be a favourable sign.

Bukit Kaman.—This section still continues to develop very well all through. In the drive going north at the No. 1 level the lode in the face is I cannot say how wide. We are taking 7 feet in the drive, and allowing the remainder to stand. It is more solid and better defined than it has been for a long distance and shows a little gold. Further back in the drive we are taking the lode out for the full width—40 to 45 feet, the whole of which is being sent to the mill. In the south end the lode in the face of the drive is 11 feet wide and carries good gold all through. The ground on each side of the lode is harder and better standing ground than we have had for some time. The leading slope coming in over this level is 13 feet wide and carries good gold all through; it is all being sent to the mill for crushing. In the stopes going in from No. 2 to No. 1 air shafts we are raising the richest stone ever got in the mine. The richest is 3 feet wide, and from this to the hanging wall we have 7 to 8 feet of fair ore in which good payable gold can be seen. There appears to be a large extent of this ground, as from the No. 2 air shaft to the face of the level is fully 400 feet of solid ground, which is almost untouched, and contains many thousands of tons of first class ore. In the No. 2 level the lode continues to show very fair gold in both faces. In the face going north the lode is fully 8 feet wide, solid, and well defined, and better progress is being made in extending the drive. Going south there is still from 3 to 4 feet of mullock on the foot-wall side of the lode, which is being sent over the mullock tip. Outside of this on the hanging wall is about 8 inches of good payable ore. This winze being sunk to connect the Nos. 1 and 2 levels is now down to 20 feet in the lode, with good payable gold showing in the bottom. There is still 70 feet to sink to connect it with the level below.

Bukit Jellis.—We have put a double acting steam pump in the shaft, and are now driving

south on the lode, which is from 4 to 6 feet wide, but it is a good deal broken up. There is a little gold in the stone, but it is not payable. I have no doubt, as the lode gets more solid, it will make better. Although the shaft is only 70 feet deep, it is making a lot of water. Should anything payable be got we shall require a much larger shaft and very much heavier pumping gear.

Western Lode.—The crosscut at the No. 3 level is now in 75 feet from the shaft in hard black slate. We have passed through three small bodies of quartz, none of which carry gold. One at 15 feet in, about 12 to 18 inches wide; one at 35 feet in, 4 inches wide; and one at 64 feet in, about the same width. Between the 1st and 2nd bodies of quartz is where I expected to get the lode; if I do not get something in the next few feet I intend to come back and drive on the first stone out.

Battery.—This has been kept going full time since the date of my last report. On Monday last, 5th inst., a rough clean up took place, 1,390 tons gave a yield of 3,239½ ozs. of amalgam. The battery resumed crushing again the same day at 5.30 p.m. The new Berdan pans have been put in; four to replace others worn out and two additional ones. We are also putting a new bottom in the steel boat, which has been worn out by dragging over the rocks in the Bilut River. We have two new stamper boxes to replace the ones in Nos. 1 and 2 Batteries, which are worn out.

WM. BIBBY.

THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises that as he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Co.'s mines for the month ending March 31st:—

August Shaft.—The upper part of this shaft has been straightened, having gone off the plumb owing to the large stopes coming so near. It has been re-timbered a distance of 55 feet from the surface, thoroughly overhauled, and close centred to the 110-ft. level. All timbers for the dam are in place, and a well hole sunk 6 ft. for the suction pipe of pump.

North Shaft.—Good progress has been made with sinking this shaft. The ground has been favourable, although we have a fair quantity of water to contend with. I hope to have the engine ready for winding during the coming month. Sunk during the month 47ft. 6in. Total depth from surface at date 59ft. 6in.

Stopes.—These to the west of the shaft at the 210ft. level continue to yield a fair amount of average stone. The ventilation, however, is bad, but this will be remedied shortly by a winze from the Intermediate Level when this level is farther advanced.

Stopes on the E. and W. Lode at 210ft. Level.—Work is only being carried on at the western part of this at present, and only gives a small quantity of stone, the ground being heavy and rather difficult to work. The work on the eastern part has been suspended for the present.

Stopes to the East of the Shaft at 210ft. Level on the N. and S. Lode.—Operations on these points were discontinued during the month.

Intermediate Level.—This was extended 16 ft. during the month. The lode varies in thickness from one to three feet and gold can be seen in the stone at times. It is from this level that it is intended to ventilate the stopes west of the shaft already referred to.

Intermediate Stopes.—These are in good working order, and require but little timber. They continue to yield a fair amount of stone for the mill.

Stopes at and above the 110 ft. Level.—These also require ventilation. This will soon be done, however, by a winze from the Leader stopes, which is now down 5 ft. It is necessary to sink about 9 ft. more before communicating. The stone is of average quality, and gold can be seen in it at times.

Upper Leader Stopes.—Work on these has been suspended for the present.

South Prospecting Shaft.—The crosscut has passed through the lode and various leaders, showing a little gold by panning.

Gubau.—The shaft here is down to a depth of 66 feet and a level opened into at 60 feet from the surface to crosscut for the lode. At a distance of 25 feet from the shaft a lode 11 inches wide was met with, but found to be of no value. The crosscut is being continued further as there is reason for believing that the main stone may be found further west. There is a lot of water to contend with, and extra hands have to be kept to contend with it. Distance driven from shaft, 27 feet.

The total drive for the month is 283 feet; ore mined, 865½ tons, made up as follows—

August Shaft	578
Upper Leader Stopes	287½
	—865½ tons.

Milling.—This was carried on regularly for 30 days, crushing 960 tons from the mine for a yield of 231 ozs. 2 dwts. of gold, and 940 tons of headings for 100 ozs. of gold. Milling was resumed on 1st April.

Calcing Works.—These worked full time, treating 50 tons of concentrates for a yield of 46 ozs. 14 dwts. of gold.

Cyanide Works.—These ran 28 days, treating 738 tons of tailings, yielding 289 ozs. of bullion valued at 15/9½ per oz. We shall not turn the zinc shavings so finely as hitherto; this may perhaps remedy the low value of the bullion ruling for the past two months.

General.—Everything under this head is having our attention.

Health.—The health of the camp is very satisfactory.

Labour.—The supply of labour is sufficient for our requirements.

Rainfall for the month is 6½ inches.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CLUB GOLD MEDAL AND CHAMPIONSHIP 1897.

The competition for the above commenced on the 11th inst. and brought out a quite unforeseen number of players; no less than 16 members entered for the Blue Riband of the Links, some, we believe, under the misapprehension that they were competing under handicap and some with the laudable hope that they might upset the general opinion that the final would lie between our two leading golfers. In this, as the result shows, they were not far wrong; but be that as it may, they all came to the fore and the preliminary ties of 18 holes were played off and the matches in the end, after the first weeding out, were in several instances keen and well maintained. The following is the record up to the final, which receives full comment later on in this notice:—

FIRST ROUND.

Mr. C. E. Hume beat Mr. E. A. Ram by 4 up and 3 to play; Mr. C. A. Tomes beat Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins by 4 up and 3 to play; Mr. G. Stewart beat Com. Taylor, R.N., by 5 up and 4 to play; Mr. A. S. Anton beat Lieut. Farie, R.N., by 6 up and 5 to play; Mr. C. W. May beat Major Grant Dalton by 5 up and 4 to play; Capt. G. F. Phillips beat Mr. T. N. Howard by 6 up and 5 to play; Mr. H. L. Dalrymple beat Lieut. Plumer by 5 up and 4 to play, and Capt. R. M. Ramsey, R.N., beat Mr. F. J. Badeley by 3 up and 2 to play.

SECOND ROUND.

Mr. C. A. Tomes beat Mr. C. E. Hume by 2 up and 1 to play; Mr. A. S. Anton beat Mr. G. Stewart by 1 hole; Capt. G. F. Phillips beat Mr. C. W. May by 6 up and 4 to play, and Mr. H. L. Dalrymple beat Capt. R. M. Ramsey, R.N., by 2 up and 1 to play.

SEMI-FINAL.

Mr. A. S. Anton beat Mr. C. A. Tomes by 1 hole, and Capt. G. F. Phillips beat Mr. H. L. Dalrymple by 4 up and 3 to play.

FINAL.

For this it was arranged between the players that the round should be a continuous one of 36 holes—an unusual if not unprecedented course we believe in the East, where the heat is considerable and the test of endurance forms a large factor in the result—and the occasion was availed of to ask the ladies to grace with their presence and pretty frocks the Club's "At Home" on the 22nd inst. A large number availed themselves of the invitation, and it was very gratifying to see many of them, after the heat of the sun's rays had somewhat abated, following the play of the last 18 holes, some of

them with very keen interest. The fine Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, under the talented leadership of Mr. W. G. Bentley, was by the kindness and courtesy of Colonel Gordon and the officers permitted to assist in the entertainment of the guests and by the rendering of a choicely selected programme conducted very materially to the pleasure of the afternoon.

Play was commenced at 2.45, Capt. Phillips taking the honour, and winning the first hole in 4 against Mr. Anton's 5; the next two holes fell to the latter in 4s; the fourth was taken in 4 by Phillips, and the fifth halved in 5; the next three holes were won by Anton, and the ninth by his opponent in 5—Anton 2 up. In the second round both got mixed up in the ditch, and the hole was given up to Phillips, not played out—(and here a word of advice to young players—never give up a hole unless every possible chance is against you of taking or halving it; this was done on more than one or two occasions during the play)—who took the eleventh hole in 4; the next five holes went to Anton—four 4s and a 5,—the seventeenth and eighteenth holes were halved in 5 and 6. Anton 5 up on the 18 holes. During this second round a couple of fine strokes by Anton are worthy of record; at any rate on these links they combine to establish a record. Going to the long hole (420 yards) his drive with the carry measured 250 yards; for his second, without too good a lie, he took his iron, carried a row of 3½ ft. hurdles 130 yards distant, and found his ball 25 yards beyond the sixth hole—a drive of 195 yards, with but very little wind at his back.

The heat, which was fairly tropical now began to tell a bit, and the play on both sides fell away somewhat Anton having blistered his leading hand and Phillips playing an unsteady and weak game. Anton led and topped his ball, Phillips doing something similar, both finding their balls in an unpleasant narrow dry ditch; hole given up to Phillips; twentieth hole halved in 4, the next going to his opponent in 5 and the next two taken by Phillips; the twenty-fourth hole was credited to Anton and the last 3 holes of the round halved; Phillips 1 up on the round, leaving Anton 4 up on the 27 holes. Anton again leading negotiated the first four holes in 6s, which were taken by Phillips 5, 5, 4, 5, and at this point the game was all even. Driving to the thirty-second hole Phillips got into a water ditch, but succeeded in halving the hole; still all even and five holes from home. Driving to the short hole Phillips went hard into the hurdles and lay close under them on the far side; Anton missed his stroke, his ball falling short, though clear, of the hurdles; hole halved in 5, and still all even. Here it is said Anton, who had been a good deal put out by his damaged hand, clenched his teeth and went in to win or die, grasped his club firmly, and followed his opponent to the long hole. This was badly played by both men, Anton taking it in 6 (though it should have been halved, if not won by Phillips), as he did also the next or ante-penultimate hole. At this point it may have been the playing of a Scotch reel that upset the balance of their putters, but both men tried to distinguish themselves on this green, Anton who was over in two taking four more to get down, but securing the hole, which might have been halved. The next hole was halved and the match was won by Anton—2 up and 1 to play.

Taking the game all round the play was certainly not up to championship form: the best score for the 9 holes was Anton's of 42 in the first round against Phillips' 46; the remaining rounds varied from 44 to 48; the last eight holes were negotiated by Phillips in 43 and by Anton in 46, showing that both men were pretty played out.

The winner received warm congratulations from his many friends, the fair sex being very much *en evidence* on the occasion, and all we have to add is to express the hope that he will persevere in the game, for which he is admirably constituted, and of which he gives every promise to become a first class exponent.

The members of the Club desire to express their high appreciation of the interest so gracefully shown by the ladies on the occasion, and of their kindly presence, which lent so much to the success of the day.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

SEASON, 1896-1897.

BATTING AVERAGES.

In Ten Innings and over.

Name.	Number of Innings.	Times not out.	Most in an Innings.	Runs.	Average.
A. G. Ward	17	2	105	462	30.80
T. S. Smith	15	3	80	348	29.00
P. A. Cox	10	1	64	258	28.66
Com. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	11	3	60*	219	27.38
Lt. Perry Ayscough, R.N.	10	1	69	247	27.33
Rev. G. Vallings	16	2	91	368	26.26
Surg.-Major Johnston	15	3	37	228	19.00
K. W. Mounsey	12	...	31	162	13.50
E. Mast	15	1	38*	167	11.91
H. Mackenzie	14	2	34	123	10.25

In Three Innings and over.

T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.	9	1	50*	319	39.88
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	6	...	73	204	34.00
J. H. Thresher, R.B.	5	1	45*	132	34.00
M. D. Wood, W.Y.R.	7	1	76*	185	31.25
H. B. Bedwell, R.N.	5	1	65*	125	30.83
Capt. Langhorne, R.A.	9	1	74	210	26.25
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D.	9	2	52*	163	24.00
E. H. Beasley	3	...	38	63	22.66
C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R.	5	...	42	99	19.80
R. H. Hancock	3	...	42	57	19.00
Surgeon Peade, R.N.	7	...	57	124	17.71
R. F. Lammert	5	2	28*	50	16.66
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R.	3	...	20	45	15.00
G. M. Thomson	3	1	20*	29	14.50
J. R. Gillingham	7	2	20*	69	13.80
Capt. Fergusson, R.B.	5	1	22	55	13.75
E. W. Maitland	7	1	32	75	12.50
E. A. Ram	4	...	38	48	12.00
Lieut. Plumer, R.N.	4	...	33	47	11.75
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	3	...	19	34	11.33
Lt. Bonham Carter, R.N.	4	...	29	45	11.25
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	7	1	24	67	11.17
H. Arthur	9	3	37*	66	11.00
Capt. Trotman, R.M.L.I.	4	...	16	38	9.50
F. W. Christian	3	...	14	28	9.33
Lieut. Shelford, R.N.	6	1	16*	43	8.60
A. S. Anton	6	...	13	53	8.83
H. Shipway, R.N.	3	...	19	26	8.66
G. Grimble	4	1	13*	22	7.66
A. Anderson	7	...	15	41	6.83
C. Inchbald	6	...	20	35	5.83
A. G. Smith	4	1	14	16	5.33
P. G. Davies, R.A.	6	1	10	28	5.60
T. S. Holland, R.B.	3	1	6	6	3.00
L. S. Crawford	5	...	4	9	1.80
F. H. Kew	3	...	1	1	0.33

The following gentlemen batted in less than three innings:—

A. D. Boden, R.B.	...	0 and 11
P. G. Anderson, H.K.R.	...	1
P. W. Cobbold	...	24
H. M. C. Elliott, R.N.	...	9
Lieut. Boden-Smith, R.N.	...	15
H. Green, R.A.	...	0
Com. Hon. G. A. Harding, R.N.	41	32
G. Stewart	...	1
R. W. Shelton, R.N.	...	3
G. Paley, R.B.	...	2*
R. Alexander, R.B.	...	6
V. H. Maryatt, R.N.	...	0*
Captain Loveband	...	12*
Captain Baker-Carr, R.B.	...	0
H. Berger, H.K.R.	...	0
F. Gascoyne, R.N.	...	26
F. Isacke, W.Y.R.	...	4
J. Graham	...	0
E. Bennetts, R.N.	...	12
D. Wood	...	2
F. Ryall, W.Y.R.	...	1
Captain Mercer, R.M.L.I.	...	4
F. Maitland	...	0
R. L. Richardson	...	3*
A. Steel, R.N.	...	9
E. Tomlin	...	5*
W. M. Thompson, R.E.	...	10
O. Stewart	...	0
C. V. Percival, R.B.	...	6
Captain Mould, R.E.	...	11
Lieut. Morcom, R.N.	...	9

BOWLING AVERAGES.

In Ten Innings and over.

Name.	No. of Innings.	No. of Balls.	No Balls.	Wides.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
M. D. Wood, W.Y.R.	10	619	...	1	56	238	25	9.52
T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.	12	580	...	...	29	324	30	10.80
T. S. Smith	17	1112	...	1	47	596	40	14.90
Rev. G. Vallings	17	1171	...	2	50	727	43	16.91
H. Mackenzie	11	541	...	1	26	334	12	27.83

In Three Innings and over.

Name.	No. of Innings.	No. of Balls.	No Balls.	Wides.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
O. W. Gordon, W.Y.R.	4	166	...	...	5	67	8	8.37
R. H. Hancock	4	272	...	...	21	165	12	13.75
G. Grimble	4	175	...	...	8	90	6	15.00
P. G. Davies, R.A.	8	354	...	...	10	216	14	15.43
J. Thresher, R.B.	4	110	...	...	4	87	5	17.40
Lt. Bonham Carter	5	408	...	...	18	222	12	18.50
E. Mast	9	377	...	...	21	194	10	19.40
A. G. Ward	4	45	1	0	2	43	2	21.50
E. W. Maitland	7	335	...	...	10	202	8	25.25
Lt. Shelford, R.N.	6	570	...	...	23	288	11	26.18
J. R. Gillingham	7	360	...	...	15	197	7	28.14
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	4	60	...	...	1	59	2	29.50
Com. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, R.N.	4	180	...	...	2	99	3	33.00
H. B. Bedwell, R.N.	4	143	...	...	3	140	4	35.00
R. Alexander, R.B.	3	135	...	1	4	97	2	48.50
P. A. Cox	8	375	...	...	14	216	4	54.00
L. S. Crawford	4	190	...	...	5	127	2	63.00
Capt. Langhorne, R.A.	3	85	...	...	2	65	1	65.00
R. F. Lammert	3	60	...	...	3	37	...	...
E. H. Beasley	3	35	...	...	...	38	...	...

The following members bowled in less than three innings:—

	Wickets.	Runs.
P. G. Anderson, H.K.R.	3 for 37	
A. D. Boden, R.B.	0	12
T. Bennetts, R.N.	1	16
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R.	1	3
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D.	1	35
T. S. Holland, R.B.	0	15
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	0	41
Surgeon-Major Johnston	0	14
H. M. C. Elliott, R.N.	4	79
S. Powell	3	44
F. W. Christian	5	99
A. Anderson	1	15
G. Stewart	3	27
F. Ryall, W.Y.R.	0	7
Lieut. Boden-Smith, R.N.	1	41
T. Shipway, R.N.	1	34
P. Cobbold	1	17
E. Tomlin	0	12
Lieut. Perry Ayscough, R.N.	1	12
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	0	11

LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

CHAMPIONSHIP.

Gibson beat H. Humphreys.
Farie beat Pellew.
Platt beat Millward.

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS.

Pellew and Bartrum beat Wood and Hollingsworth.
Cox and Millward beat Anderson and Moberly.
Mayson and Skelton beat Langhorne and Grayson.

DOUBLE HANDICAP.

Pellew and Platt beat Brown and Mackay.
Beazley and Gillingham beat Mayson and Crooke.
T. S. Smith and Atkinson beat Mounsey and Anderson.

"A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Ballard beat Bartrum.
Pellew beat H. Humphreys.

"B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Grant Smith beat W. Humphreys.
Wood beat Wellman.
Hume beat R. E. Humphreys.
Hollingsworth beat Deacon.
Mallinson beat Cooke.

VETERAN'S HANDICAP.

T. S. Smith beat Commander Wade.
Skelton beat Platt.

The Chinese signal keeper at the Peak was charged at the Magistracy on Monday with selling intoxicating liquors without a licence. Recently a number of sailors were seen returning from the signalling station in a drunken condition and it was thought they had bought the drink from the keeper. On the 22nd inst. P. C. McVicker went to the station and asked for some whisky. He was supplied with half a gill for which he was charged \$1. On the 24th inst. P. C. Gilmore went to the station and he first of all asked for a lemonade and then for a dilutant in the shape of a whisky. The liquor was willingly sold to him and as it was lying on the table P. S. Macdonald entered the place and charged the defendant with unlawfully selling the stuff. The Magistrate inflicted a fine of \$100 in the first case and \$50 in the second.

THE SHANGHAI RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

THE COUNCIL RESIGN.

Shanghai, 22nd April.

The Special Meeting of Ratepayers, called to consider the action of the Municipal Council in regard to the wheelbarrow tax, took place last evening in the Astor Hall, under the presidency of Sir Nicholas Hannen, H.B.M.'s Consul-General. As anticipated, it was largely attended not only by ratepayers but by persons unable to vote, including many ladies. We are obliged to hold over our full report of the proceedings, but in the meantime give *in extenso* the anxiously anticipated explanation of the Council's action, which Mr. Probst gave to the meeting. After a resolution proposed by Mr. R. W. Little, and seconded by Mr. E. Jenner Hogg, had been carried, requiring such explanation,

Mr. Probst said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I may say on behalf of the Council that we welcome the opportunity that is now afforded us of explaining to you the action we have taken in connection with the recent wheelbarrow riot; also to express our appreciation of the courtesy shown to us by the form of the resolution just put forward and passed. I propose merely to submit a clear and straightforward statement of facts and events as they took place and which are as follows. During a sitting of the Works Committee at about 11.30 a.m. on Monday, the 5th inst., news was received of an alarming disturbance on the Yangkingpang Bridge between a native mob and the Police, to whom assistance was rendered by some European residents. I may remark that during the previous 48 hours the Police had been doing extra duty owing to indications of trouble with the wheelbarrow-men, who resented the increase of the license-fee. The statements brought to me were such as under these circumstances caused me, after consultation with the Capt. Superintendent of Police and Capt. B. Clarke, at once to sanction the calling out of the Volunteers and application to the two British gun-vessels for assistance. It was obviously my duty at this stage to acquaint the Senior-Consul (Dr. Stuebel) with the position, which was done, and meanwhile the Vice-Chairman also arrived at the Council room. On the arrival of Dr. Stuebel I immediately drove with him to see the French Consul-General, the mob having retreated into the French Concession, where under existing regulations they could not be followed and broken up by our Municipal Police, but the French Consul-General at once pronounced his willingness to take concerted action to quell the riot. On our return we found the British Consul-General, and after a brief interview with the Chief of Police as to placement of forces, Dr. Stuebel requested the Vice-Chairman and myself to attend a meeting of the Consular Body at 3 p.m., and it was also decided to call together the leading officers to concert our measures. It was now some time between one and two o'clock. The Vice-Chairman and I only attended the meeting of the Consular Body at 3 p.m. accompanied at their request by Captain Mackenzie. A brief statement of the position having been made by the latter, the Consuls present of countries having ships of war in port assented to his desire for further support therefrom, and the French Consul-General had already arranged with the representative of Russia for the Russian sailors to land for duty on the French Concession. Count de Bezaure also at once gave his assent to the Volunteers crossing the Yangkingpang, should it appear desirable—the mob in the meantime being reported as on the Kinleeyuen Wharves and around the city walls. The Consular Body unanimously approved the action of the Municipal Council in calling out the forces, and after reviewing the situation it was decided that the Senior Consul should communicate with the Taotai and that the meeting should adjourn until 7 p.m.; it was then nearly 5 o'clock. In the meantime the Taotai had taken the initiative and come into the Settlements to see Dr. Stuebel, who duly met him at a lengthy conference. The meeting of the Consular body was consequently not held until nearly 8 p.m., when Dr. Stuebel reported his interview with the Taotai, who expressed himself as unable to do anything to

make the wheelbarrow-men submit at once to the increased tax, but he asked for time being given him to do so. He also urged consideration for the wheelbarrow-men. He asked for various concessions and settlements which were all declined, and after much deliberation it was resolved to meet him so far as to defer the date of increase of tax, provided he issued an official undertaking to enforce the same on a given date. It was therefore resolved to reply that the Taotai must issue a proclamation to the wheelbarrow-men ordering them to obey the Municipal Council, owing to whose clemency and consideration the increased payment would be deferred until the 1st of July, but in such terms as would render him responsible for any further disturbance; and that unless we received his assent to these terms by 10.30 a.m. next day he must take the consequences. The reasons for this course were obvious; such a settlement once and for all binds the Taotai and prevents any legal quibbles; it is an acknowledgment of our powers to tax which had been successfully questioned in previous years, and it put an end to further disturbances which might have been very serious. The meeting then adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on the next day, Tuesday, the 6th of April. Meanwhile I called a meeting of the Municipal Council for 9.30 a.m. next morning, i.e. the 6th, and explained the action taken, which was confirmed without dissent. At 10.30 a.m. the Vice-Chairman and I attended the meeting of Consuls and learned that the ultimatum of the previous night had been accepted. Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, as the matter stands the Taotai has entered into an agreement from which the Consular Body will not allow him to recede; on the other hand disturbances have been controlled and averted and the position of the Municipal Council in respect to the collection of the tax has been assured. We have waived no principle, but we have attained an indisputable right. Moreover, we have thereby obtained from the highest Chinese official the very assent which was wanting in 1888, the want of which caused the Council at that time to abandon the increase of the same tax, notwithstanding that it had been passed at a Ratepayers' Meeting. A statement has been made that our right to tax the Chinese was questioned by the Consular Body. Allow me to contradict this; on the contrary there has been perfect unanimity. It is true the correspondence relating to the withdrawal of similar taxation in 1888 was on the table, but it was not discussed in our presence. I may mention in this connection that the correspondence in question refers to an episode which it is very inexpedient to revive. An impression seems to exist that, because we have certain rights, we have under the Land Regulation almost unassailable rights—this view is unfortunately entirely erroneous. Anybody who has been in office or taken any trouble to study our constitution must know that our governmental machinery is defective. We have certain powers of legislation, but to carry out our laws we have no judicial power. I refer to the powers to administer the law over the Chinese which are vested in the Mixed Court. The Chinese Government have never abandoned judicial power over their own nationals who live within our Settlements. This you must understand is a great source of weakness in our administration, but it is one for which you must not blame the Municipal Council, and, whoever that Council may in future be composed of, I would give a word of warning as to how this delicate subject should be discussed or handled. The inadequacy of punishment inflicted by the Mixed Court is now the subject of official consideration and whatever may be the result of this meeting there are two things which will have to be done at once: first, the whole system of wheelbarrow licences must be revised; secondly, the European and Sikh Police force must be considerably augmented. An addition of 25 Europeans and of 25 Sikhs would involve an expenditure of about £15,000 per annum, which course has not been authorised in the votes passed at the Annual Meeting, and it might be desirable therefore now to take the sense of the meeting on this subject. I would add one word as to the recent correspondence on the subject of this meeting; viz. the resolution of the meeting of the residents

were only received after a Council meeting had been concluded on Thursday, the 8th inst., when it was decided that in view of the time occupied during the week and of the business engagements of members, it was unreasonable to ask them to re-assemble and enter on further discussions until Tuesday, the 13th; there was no desire to avoid explanation, but on the contrary we were anxious to afford it. I have taken much of your time and believe me the Municipal affairs have lately taken much of ours, and having afforded you, so far as is in our power, the details of recent events I will close by saying that we have entered into an agreement from which we consider it inexpedient and impossible for us to withdraw. Your vote on this occasion is therefore one of confidence or the reverse, and as a body we shall be guided by your decision, for under no circumstances can we be parties to any resolution involving a breach of faith in respect of the compact made.

There were frequent signs of dissent by the meeting during the delivery of these remarks, and the tone of the proceedings became still more determined when the following resolution was proposed by Mr. R. M. Campbell, in a vigorous speech, and seconded by Mr. Cecil Holliday:—"That this meeting of Ratepayers, having heard the explanation of the Council, desires to express the most profound regret that the Council should have so far disregarded the interests and dignity of the community, which they were elected to represent, as to agree to the compromise which has been effected. But, the Consuls having, in good faith, at the request of the Council, entered into an arrangement with the Chinese officials this Meeting now gives the authority necessary to carry that arrangement into effect."

Mr. G. J. Morrison sought unsuccessfully to induce the ratepayers to accept an amendment which left out the censure contained in the resolution, and after an animated discussion, in which Mr. R. W. Little, the Rev. J. R. Hykes, and Mr. C. J. Dudgeon took part, the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority, on a show of hands. Thereupon Mr. Probst announced that the present Council would at once resign, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman carried by acclamation.—*N. C. Daily News.*

PIRACY ON THE YANGTZE.

Like the average policeman, the Chinese gunboats and revenue junks cannot be everywhere at once; apparently they were not at Nanchang a few days ago, when five merchants travelling to Kiangsi were robbed and foully murdered. The unhappy men formed a party of six, one of whom escaped by diving overboard. They were peacefully making their way to their destination, when an unsuspecting looking boat bore swiftly down upon them and a fierce horde suddenly rose up from concealment, boarded the merchants' boat, and overpowered the boatmen. They first robbed the merchants and then butchered them one after another.—*Mercury.*

THE HANGCHOW MINT.

On the 13th April an interesting ceremony was performed at Hangchow in connection with the new mint, which is now nearly completed. This was the naming of the engines which are to run the machinery for the coining of the cash. A large number, in fact almost all of the Hangchow officials were present, and the preliminary ceremonies having been gone through, the engine was started in a most successful manner, running for six hours afterwards without a hitch of any kind occurring. The officials were immensely pleased, and two days afterwards the work was commenced in earnest. 80,000 cash being now turned out per day, this being the limit. The machinery in the silver department is not yet erected, though it is hoped that a few weeks more will see the work completed. When this is done, the out-turn will be \$6,000 a day, this total being composed of 135,000 silver pieces, all bearing the Chekiang stamp. Hangchow being situated in that province. There are three big Corliss type engines, two of which are to work the silver coining machinery, the other being now employed in the cash depart-

ment; they are of 650 I.H.P. The machinery was made in Germany. One foreigner only has been employed in superintending the erection of the machinery. This is Mr. A. Burteenshaw, the son of an old officer of H.B.M.'s service in Shanghai. He deserves a word of praise for the very successful issue of his labours in connection with the Hangchow Mint.—*Mercury.*

THE HANGCHOW LAND TROUBLE.

It will be remembered that the British Consul-General paid a visit to Hangchow recently to settle a dispute with the Governor of Chekiang with reference to the right of British subjects to purchase land at that Treaty port. The dispute was settled and the Governor promised to issue a proclamation at once. Sir Nicholas, unfortunately, did not wait to see the promise carried out, and the natural result has followed that to this day, as we are informed, the proclamation has not been issued. We do not know what steps are being taken to recall the Governor to a sense of his duty, but it is obvious that if notice is not promptly taken of such neglect, Chinese authorities are confirmed in their indifference to foreign complaints.—*N. C. Daily News.*

JAPANESE BONDS AND FOREIGN PURCHASES.

According to the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, rumours are current that an offer made to the Government by Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., for the purchase of public loan bonds, has not been accepted. But that is not the case, says our contemporary. Negotiations are still being conducted by the firm. The proposed purchase amounted to thirty-five million yen worth of consolidated Bonds bearing five per cent. interest, and the Company offered to buy at the face value (100 yen), but Government insisted upon receiving 105 yen. Under these circumstances an understanding has not yet been arrived at. The firm seems to hesitate greatly about buying such a great quantity of bonds at a premium of five per cent., whereas the Government considers that a good price should be procurable in view of the recent adoption of gold monometallism. In truth, the authorities find themselves placed in a very difficult position. Investigations are now being made to ascertain the comparative rates of various securities in foreign countries. Rumours still circulate that a London firm has offered to take consolidated Bonds as security for a loan at an annual interest of 3½ per cent. The proposal, however, was for War Loan Bonds to the amount of two millions of yen, at 4 per cent. interest and a discount of five yen.—*Japan Mail.*

THE CHINESE CONSULATE AT SINGAPORE.

ITS SUPPOSED VALUE.

A correspondent writes to the *Strait Times*:—It is not generally known to those unacquainted with Chinese matters that the post of Chinese Consul-General in Singapore is a subject of much interest in Mandarin circles, and its acquisition is keenly sought for. It is understood to be in the gift of the Chinese Ambassador at St. James's, at present His Excellency Loh Feng-Lok. For some time the appointment has been filled by an acting incumbent. It has now become known that Loh Feng-Lok has bestowed the much-coveted prize on his brother. The pecuniary value of the office is, in addition to its salary and other emoluments, estimated to be no less than \$50,000 a year. The question is, where is this sum of money to come from? It is but a few years back that much question arose, owing to certain alleged irregular action on the part of the Consulate in levying fees from Chinese emigrants. Enquiries were instituted at the time, and the matter was left in abeyance, except so far that some stringent rules were made by the Chinese authorities and these are, it is believed, rigidly adhered to. How, then, it is asked, is a sum of \$50,000 a year to be made out of the appointment? To revert to the system of levying fees from emigrants would be attended with risk. Yet the fact remains that the post is looked upon as a very remunerative one.

TIENTSIN.

12th April.

The extra-Concession proclamation of the Taotai has been the event of the month up to date. The matter was virtually decided on March 31st, the last day of Mr. H. B. Bristow's tenure of office as H.B.M.'s Consul, when the Haikuan Taotai sent a formal despatch acquiescing in all the essential points of the memorial of 1896. I need not enlarge on the question, as doubtless some of your correspondents in the North have already given it appropriate prominence. Mr. Bristow's personal popularity with the high officials has been quite a factor in the happy solution of the problem and he leaves office with the *kudos* which it was their special desire to ensure; but it is not to be forgotten, as our local organ unjustly seems to forget, that others have contributed largely to the result, e.g., Sir Claude Macdonald in Peking, the secretaries and interpreters on both sides, and the Special Committee of the British Municipal Council. This last body, under the tactful direction of Mr. Edmund Cousins of E-wo, has played an unseen but a strong part throughout all the negotiations, and I am confident that Mr. Bristow would be the first to acknowledge how much is due to Mr. Cousins' fine judgment and strong yet conciliatory spirit. A proposal will be submitted to the new governing body as soon as it is organised that the boundary road be called Bristow Road in compliment to our genial outgoing Consul. Serve him right! but if that yet-unborn Corporation has any sense of the proprieties, it will assuredly also have a *Via Consobrina*, or a Cousins Square, in its street nomenclature.

It is to be noted that there is no Concession. Her Majesty's Government does not take over the lease of one square inch of additional soil; such a course is strongly objected to both at Peking and Whitehall; the Chinese officials simply hand over some 1,600 odd *mow* of land, 900 of which are already in our possession as buyers, to be under our complete municipal control. We shall make roads, fill ponds, close grave-yards and remove nuisances, we shall light the area, drain it, police it, and lay our water pipes therein with precisely the same freedom as we now do in the British Settlement; we shall moreover raise taxes by the decree of a representative body, and shall have compulsory power over native owners to pay these taxes, but there is to be no other interference with existing interests (except on grounds of public health), and Chinese are to be allowed to reside in the area.

A new municipal body will probably be formed, but as the existing B.M.C. is by far the biggest holder, its influence will probably be paramount for a long time to come. The new body will probably use the present executive, a procedure altogether desirable, as it will secure unity of purpose and high efficiency from the beginning. Things will probably go slow for the first three years, as it is particularly expedient not to alarm the present Chinese land-holders. They will be apt to regard taxation for road-making, etc., as confiscation, tyranny, and all sorts of administrative robbery. It is hoped that within that period the remaining 700 *mow* may have passed into foreign possession.

Waterworks threaten to be our next public excitement. The Landrenters meet this week to discuss a specific plan formulated by the Tientsin Waterworks Co., and it is generally anticipated that the Council will be authorised to come to an agreement with that corporate body. Just at the last moment, however, a rival company has come into the field, and it is possible that this may ensure a further delay. The essential feature of the rival company is filtration under high pressure; such filtration is claimed not only to exclude organic matter, but to be germicidal. The new scheme also, I think, has a clause undertaking to provide water for Municipal purposes gratuitously, but on the other hand the B.M.C. is required to guarantee a certain minimum consumption by the population of the Settlement.

Hydraulics are on the boom just now, for the improvement of the river on the lines suggested by Mr. A. de Linde, A.M.I.C.E., is about to be undertaken. Viceroy Wang has

been alive to the vast importance of this river question ever since the lesson of last summer, when the Peiho shoaled up to 4½ feet: he has had repeated interviews with the Consular Body and has manifested an intelligent interest in the proposals urged so strongly by Count du Chaylard, our local *doyen*. The Peking people supported us admirably, and the Tsungli Yamen adopted an encouraging attitude to Wang Wen-shao: he recently memorialised them that he was prepared to go the length of Tls. 100,000 from the provincial resources; and last week they authorised him to do so. It is expected that His Excellency is ready to go as far as Tls. 120,000, but, as Mr. de Linde's entire scheme will cost nearly three times this amount, there is just a fear that we may see the usual addle that attends half measures, and which is the constant curse of Chinese policy.

Locally it is believed that last year's loss alone of the three great shipping companies combined with that of the Tug and Lighter Co. was more than the estimated cost of the whole scheme proposed by Mr. de Linde. It is further understood, though I can quote no authority, that while two of the companies might willingly submit to guarantee the interest and sinking fund of a loan, one holds out on sheer question of principle. Well, it is a curious commercial principle which allows a sum of Tls. 70,000 to be lost for an annual output of Tls. 10,000; especially when an inappreciable increment of the freights would easily recoup this petty sum.

The engineer's scheme has commended itself all round: it is, however, curious that the Chamber of Commerce and the Consular Body did not supplement it by some financial proposals. The Chinese dearly love a detailed plan; if it be only to discuss, a plan which often precipitates their inchoate or solvent ideas into decisions which result in action. If the Consular Body had suggested a River Conservancy composed of Chinese officials and foreigners with power to raise Tls. 350,000 and to collect a revenue for interest and redemption fund from the shipping, it would have had some chance of success. A trumpery Tls. 30,000 a year would be the merest bagatelle on the Tientsin trade. The presence of foreigners would probably have ensured both subscription to the loan and judicious expenditure of the money.

The rail contract fell to Mr. C. D. Jameson, an American civil engineer who has been for some time resident in Tientsin. His figures were far and away the lowest sent in, and as he quoted for Carnegie material he was *facile princeps*. The total value of the two consignments is said to be just under Tls. 450,000. As this is the first time American steel has triumphed over European in competition by closed tenders, it has attracted much remark. I have no special knowledge of the *arcana* of the steel trade, but I think the explanation of the phenomenon is as follows. Carnegie and the second great American rolling mill have coalesced into something like a Trust and have begun an internecine struggle with the other steel makers—their object being practical monopoly. The struggle is acute, and Carnegie steel which cost \$23 gold per ton to produce is being sold at \$17 gold. Mr. Jameson is supposed to have hopped in with his tender in this very peculiar and temporary state of affairs. Both he and the Chinese railways are to be warmly congratulated.

Mr. B. C. G. Scott has taken over charge as H.B.M.'s Consul *vice* Mr. H. B. Bristow retired. Mr. Bristow leaves us with the hearty goodwill and esteem of all who had the good fortune to know him.

As Consul-General Comte du Chaylard has also left Tientsin. Mr. Sheridan Pitt Read (U.S. Consul) is now the *doyen*; the interests of the commercial community will be safe in the hands of this able and energetic official.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

A shop in China Town, Yokohama, adjoining H.M. Gaol compound, was burnt down on the 11th inst. The European proprietress of the Globe Saloon, close by, went out to see where the fire was and fell down dead, it is supposed from heart disease.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The houses which were sealed up by the authorities last year because they belonged to merchants who were accused of taking part in the late disturbance in San Francisco have been restored to the owners, the mandarins in Canton having received instructions from the Chinese Consul-General in San Francisco to the effect that the disturbance has subsided.

The 20th instant was the birthday of Viceroy Tan Chung-lun. All the officers in Canton went to His Excellency's yamen to offer him congratulations and make him valuable presents, but His Excellency refused to receive any visitors or to accept any presents. It should be remembered that of all the predecessors of Viceroy Tan, only H.E. Chang Chih-tung refused to accept presents offered to him on his birthday. It is said that the value of the presents made by the officers to H.E. Li Han-chang, late Viceroy of Canton, on his birthday was over a million taels.

The French Consulate, which is situated next to the yamen of the Provincial Treasurer, is to be removed to Chau-kung-kwan, in Ut-shan Street, near Kwon-yam Hill. The Chau-kung-kwan has already been photographed for the French Consul.

A merchant has been granted permission to erect a flour mill in Oi-yuk-tung Street, near the South gate. Last year two merchants were granted permits to erect flour mills, but their permits were withdrawn owing to their quarrelling about the patent, which the Government refused to grant to either of them.

A military officer named To Tsau Yung and his family were attacked recently by a band of robbers while passing through the Tak-hing district *en route* to Canton. The son and concubine of the officer were wounded by the robbers, who took away all their valuables. The Magistrate of Samshti district has increased the police force for the protection of merchants trading on the West River.

H.E. Tan Chung-lun has been granted two months' leave on account of ill-health. His Excellency has refused to receive any visitors and he will not meddle with public affairs except in cases of urgent importance during the time of his leave.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 22nd April.

The new Governor of Macao, H.E. Senhor Galhardo, is now on his way out and is expected about the middle of next month or a little earlier. No special preparations are being made for his reception and of course there will be no such demonstration as on the occasion of Senhor Horta e Costa's return last October. His Excellency is coming out for the first time and no one can say what the character of his administration will be. Some people seem inclined to form unfavourable opinions in advance, but I hope before Senhor Galhardo has been here long they will find they are mistaken. This is what all people of good sense wish.

Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister, arrived here on Wednesday morning about half-past eleven, by one of the torpedo boats, and was received with a salute of fifteen guns. His Excellency stayed at the Boa Vista Hotel. In the afternoon he made an official call on the Council of Government, a guard of honour being posted at the entrance to Government House to receive him. His Excellency dined at the Boa Vista, and the military band played during dinner. His Excellency left this morning about eight o'clock and received a farewell salute of the same number of guns as on his arrival.

The nuns and European children of the Italian Convent have been all right since their removal to Green Island, no more cases of plague having occurred among them. A few cases have occurred on the other side of the Convent, where the Chinese children are accommodated, but the Government has ordered mat-sheds to be erected behind the Guia Fort for these children, and I think we will probably hear of no more cases. In the city there is nothing of importance to report in connection with the disease, but the authorities are taking

precautions by disinfecting the drains and carefully cleansing the more uncleanly quarters. But the sooner they order the burial of the coffins in the Chinese Hospital the better. Two years ago plague was very prevalent just behind the coffin depot and it seems probable that the bacillus has found a nidus there and has become active again this year owing to the atmospheric conditions favouring it. Keeping corpses unburied for lengthened periods must be dangerous and in all cases burial should take place within twenty-four hours of death.

HONGKONG.

It has at length been decided what form the Hongkong memorial of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign shall take. The Committee appointed to consider the subject met on Monday afternoon and it was resolved to build a hospital for women and children and in connection with it to have a training institute for nurses, and also to commence the construction of a road round the island. This decision is a popular one and there should be no difficulty in raising the \$50,000 which it is expected will be forthcoming from public subscriptions. To this amount the Government will add an additional \$50,000 and half the total sum will be given to each of the two schemes. The Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, is leaving the colony next week for Colombo and at the ordinary meeting of the Sanitary Board held on Thursday last a vote of thanks was passed to him for the invaluable public services he had rendered to the colony. Mr. Cooper was also entertained to dinner on Saturday night by the Civil Service. In connection with a fire in Jevois Street on the 21st inst. five men are in custody charged with arson. There was a fire on the *Belgie* on the 22nd inst., but fortunately the damage was comparatively slight.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A. \$25

Mr. A. G. Ward gave an organ recital at St John's Cathedral on Monday afternoon, assisted by Miss Murray Bain and Mr. D. K. Sliman as vocalists, who gave two duets. The programme was as follows:—

Fugue (St. Ann's) in E flat, in five parts, J. S. Bach.
Duet..... "Love Divine"—("Daughter of Jarius")

J. Stainer.

a. Serenade (Schubert) arranged for Organ by E. H. Lemare.

b. Andantino Caesar Franck.

Fantasia "The Storm" J. Lemmens.

Duet "My Song shall be alway" ("Hymn of Praise")

Mendelssohn.

Festive March H. Smart.

The fugue on the well-known hymn tune of St. Ann's was a pleasant introduction to an excellent programme. In the third number Schubert's serenade was rendered with charming effect, the canon being given with marked precision; the andantino was also all that could be wished. The principal number, however, was the fourth, J. Lemmens' fantasia "The Storm," in which the ability of the performer and the quality of the instrument were both conspicuously displayed, quite remarkable effects being produced in the patter of the rain drops, the whistling and howling of the wind, and the rolling of the thunder, with the gentle accompaniment representative of the worship of those exposed to the tempest. The performance of this difficult piece was noteworthy and proved Mr. Ward to be an accomplished master of the organ in technique and to possess highly developed qualities of imagination and feeling. The last of the numbers for the organ, Smart's festive march, was played with appropriate spirit and vivacity. Both the vocal items were good. Miss Bain has a pleasing soprano voice and with a little more experience in its use great things may be expected of her. Mr. Sliman was perhaps not in quite such good voice as usual, but it is always a pleasure to hear Mr. Sliman sing, even when he is not quite at high water mark. A collection was made in aid of the organ fund.

The proprietress of the Traveller's Hotel, Victoria Street, was on the 21st April fined \$15 for serving intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours and refusing to show her licence to the police.

It is rather curious, says the *Singapore Free Press*, to see that the Hongkong Volunteers have, perhaps as an echo of the Singapore motto, "In Oriente Primus," adopted the motto "Nulli Secundus in Oriente." Have they laid aside or forgotten their own old historical motto—that of the Hongkong Volunteers (1862) and the Canton Volunteers (1865)—"Coelum non animum mutio," with the "Dragon" badge?

On the 23rd April Surgeon-Colonel Evatt, Principal Medical Officer, examined the ambulance class of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. He first gave written questions to the class to answer and afterwards put verbal questions to them, concluding by putting them through a course of stretcher drill. He explained at the finish that he would report the result in two or three days and that those who passed would be entitled to wear the Red Cross of the Geneva Convention.

Musical society in Hongkong has sustained a loss in the departure of Mr. E. A. Measor, who left by the *Verona* for Nagasaki, whither he has gone to take up an appointment in the firm of Messrs. Holme, Ringer & Co. Mr. Measor, himself the possessor of a good tenor voice, is an enthusiast in musical matters and an excellent organiser, and it was largely to him that the colony was indebted for the enjoyable concerts that have taken place during the last few years.

At six minutes past two on Sunday morning a fire broke out at 95, Winglok Street, a building of three storeys used as a cloth, matting, and flour store. The Fire Brigade, under Mr. May, turned out and succeeded in confining the flames to the one building, the two upper storeys of which were practically burnt out, while the contents of the ground floor were damaged principally by water. Insurance was effected in the South British Fire Insurance Company for \$6,000 and for a similar amount in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd April a chair coolie was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for trying to swindle Mr. G. P. Lammert. The prosecutor gave the prisoner a marked twenty-cent piece and soon after receiving it the coolie asserted that it was bad and produced a coin which was undoubtedly counterfeit. It was not the good one that Mr. Lammert had given him and the swindler was thus nicely caught. This is a common dodge and it is to be hoped that the punishment ordered by Mr. Wodehouse will act as a warning to other coolies with a similar weakness.

At the regular Convocation of Victoria Chapter, No. 525, E.C., held on 20th April, M.E. Comp. E. C. Ray (in the absence of M.E. Comp. C. P. Chater, D.G. Supt.), attended by the D.G. Officers, installed the following Principals for the ensuing year:—M.E.Z., M.E. Comp. G. A. Caldwell; H., E. Comp. D. Macdonald; J., E. Comp. R. Mitchell. The M.E.Z. invested his officers as follows:—Sc. E., Comp. G. Piercy, Jr.; Sc. N., Comp. W. J. Tatcher; R.S., Comp. G. J. B. Sayer; 1st A.S., Comp. J. Lochead; 2nd A.S., Comp. G. C. Hayward; Treas., Comp. H. M. H. Nemazee; Steward, Comp. F. M. Richardson; Janitor, Comp. J. Maxwell.

On Saturday, at the Magistracy, the coxswain of the launch *Yuen Fat* was summoned for refusing to stop when called upon by a police pinnace. On the 21st inst. the police suspected that the launch was carrying an excess of passengers and the pinnace called upon the defendant to stop, but he refused. Mr. Master, who appeared for the defence, argued that under Ordinance 26 of 1891, table U, no charge such as this could be established, as the regulation did not refer to steam launches. Mr. Wodehouse concurred and expressed the opinion that the Ordinance was so elaborate that a charge could be established only with the greatest difficulty, and it was a pity the Ordinance was not more clearly worded. The case was therefore dismissed, the Magistrate remarking that he would draw the attention of the Government to the Ordinance. The defendant was then charged with not having lights on the launch after sunset and for this offence he was charged \$5.

There were 2,077 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 219 were Europeans.

The four-masted barque *Ancona*, which was considered very much overdue and for whose safety grave fears were entertained, arrived at Shanghai on the 19th April, having occupied 243 days over the passage from New York.

With reference to press telegram a reporting the robbery of Rs 75,000 from the Rangoon Agency of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Bank has received advice of the recovery of the total amount with the exception of Rs 500.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Indian Famine Relief Fund begs to intimate that he has forwarded the sum of Rs. 384 to the Hon. Sec. Central Committee, Calcutta, being the equivalent of \$240 at Ex. 160 received from the C. P. steamer *Empress of India*.

At the Magistracy on Monday a man was sent to gaol for six months for stealing \$485 from the safe of a salt dealer in Jubilee Street. The man opened the safe by means of false keys. He was arrested by Inspector Stanton and Sergeant Holt, who recovered nearly \$200 of the stolen money.

On the 23rd April Mr. W. C. Barlow gave a lecture to the Odd Volumes Society, his subject being John Stuart Blackie. Mr. Barlow gave some interesting facts about the late professor and added one or two personal reminiscences. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer on the motion of Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, who presided.

A coolie in the employ of Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. was sent to gaol for six weeks on Saturday for stealing five bottles of mineral water and a quantity of whisky and brandy from the store. There have been several petty robberies from Messrs. Watson's store of late and on Friday the prisoner was caught by the watchman taking the whisky, brandy, and mineral water away under his jacket.

On the 21st April the complete list of efficient members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was issued. The total number in the Field Battery is 77 and in the "A" Machine Gun Co. 22. The following members of the Machine Gun Co. have been awarded marksmen's badges:—Sergeant Fullerton, Corporals Smyth (best shot of the company) and G. P. Lammert, and Gunners Jupp, Hornby, and Shepherd.

About five p.m. on the 21st April afternoon the dead body of William Charles Owen, a sapper in the 25th Company, Royal Artillery, was found in the harbour at Wanchai. It is not yet known how the deceased, who was 30 years of age, got into the water. He had been missing from barracks since midnight on the 17th inst., and from all appearances his body had been in the water two or three days.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Under instructions of the Shanghai Taotai, Mr. Huang, the Shanghai magistrate, recently summoned before him several of the leaders of the wheelbarrow coolies and ordered them to form a regularly organised guild of their trade with the usual official sanction embodied in a proclamation posted at the doors of the proposed guild. Articles of Association are also to be drawn up by some proper person and they were to have been handed in to the Shanghai magistrate yesterday afternoon. The head of the present unauthorised guild is a man named Tang Tze-yun and the wheelbarrow men looked to this Tang Tze-yun to draw up their Articles of Association, he being the only educated man among them, but Tang has resigned his position as head of the wheelbarrow coolie association, his reply being that "he was only prudent and that his shoulders were not broad enough to bear the burden of further responsibility in case of future riots against the Municipal regulations." Tang also sent in a claim to the Shanghai magistrate for \$100 odd, which he advanced from time to time during the past four or five months. The question now is what has become of the three cash per day, paid in every fortnight or half month, by the 5,000 wheelbarrow coolies to their so-called guild? The wish of the local mandarins for a properly constituted guild, which will keep a check on the wheelbarrow coolies, is distinctly to be commended.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following little trick which is being played by a gentleman of native extraction who visits offices with lottery tickets for sale may be worth remembering by some of my readers, says "Daybreak" in *Sport and Gossip*. Not so very far from the Custom House there liveth a foreign gentleman who, wishing quickly to become rich, purchased from the wily Celestial a Manila Lottery ticket for March, the number of which won a prize of one hundred dollars. So far so good, but the owner of the ticket sent the same to a Bank for collection, and to his great dismay it was returned to him with a note calling his attention to the fact that it was for March, 1896. The Celestial from whom the ticket had been purchased returned a day or two after, apparently not having noticed that the ticket had won anything. He was welcomed once more by the foreigner and the usual haggling went on as to the price of a ticket for this month. This was settled and the ticket handed over, but no money in exchange. I have not heard exactly what transpired after this, but have good reason to believe the proceedings did not terminate with prayer.

With reference to a recent paragraph, in which I called the attention of my sporting readers to the illicit export of game from Shanghai to Southern Ports, I have received a very suggestive reply from Hongkong. My correspondent writes:—"I'm afraid the market inspectors at Shanghai are of the class that 'have eyes and see not.' A small private watch committee is wanted: a little amateur private detective work (I don't believe in the officially paid detective at all). Let the watch committee lay itself open to buy pheasants out of season through their servants, see who they buy them from, and run the sellers in. If it can be proved that the market inspector knew that pheasants were exposed for sale out of season it should be made very hot for him." I feel sure that all true sportsmen will not only not let this suggestion pass unheeded, but take some more active steps to put a stop to a practice of the existence of which they are well aware. But the mess in which the Municipal Council have recently plunged Shanghai renders it very doubtful if their notifications are authoritative and legal or not.—"DAYBREAK" in *Sport and Gossip*.

The judicial proceedings lately held in Nagasaki, by Mr. J. H. Longford, H.B.M. Consul-sitting as a Master in Lunacy, are painful reading. The enquiry was held into the mental condition of Mr. Arthur Norman, proprietor of the *Nagasaki Rising Sun*, one of the oldest foreign residents in Japan. One of the witnesses called was Simeon Forest Lawrence, Constable at the British Consulate, under whose charge the poor demented fellow had been placed for several weeks. This person stated that during the first fortnight Norman was doing nothing but writing letters and telegrams. These were addressed to the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy; the British Minister; Lowder, Yokohama; Baring London, and many others. By request of the Court one telegram was read. It ran as follows:—Telegram to His Excellency, the British Minister, Peking, China, December 25th, 1896. Your Excellency, I have the honour of informing you that after serious consideration I have been inspired to solve the the almighty problem of turning the world upside down. No Emperors or Empresses, kings or queens, presidents or Governors, Ministers of State, prime ministers, princes of royal blood, statesmen, politicians, philosophers, admirals, or all the wise men throughout the whole creation have—"

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Canton and Macao	38,696,967	42,094,874
Shanghai and Hankow	18,410,313	21,317,405
Foochow	12,749,506	14,676,073
	69,856,786	78,088,352

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai	19,800,591	29,094,771
Amoy	19,108,788	15,985,206
Foochow	11,716,764	12,199,184
	50,635,143	57,279,161

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,240,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Yokohama	27,667,053	29,811,760
Kobe	15,096,725	18,781,080
	43,663,778	48,542,840

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 22nd April.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's Circular).—London telegrams are to 21st, and quote Gold Kiling 8/9, and Blue Elephants 9/10½, with a quiet market. Raw Silk.—The week has passed without transactions until to-day, when about 150 bales have been taken at a considerable decline on our last quotations. With the exception of some Blue Elephants, the stock of Tsatlees is exhausted. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 14th to 21st April: 512 bales White, 75 piculs Yellow, and 244 piculs Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—A purchase of ordinary reel Hand Filature is reported, probably for the Continent, and some quantities of this Silk are under offer both to America and Lyons. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 21 bales, to Continent 3,666 bales, and to America 3,303 bales. Waste Silk.—300 piculs of Shantung Long Waste has changed hands at Tls. 49. Pongees.—500 pcs. of Shantungs 26/27 oz. have been settled at Tls. 3.80, and 2,000 bundles of Handkerchiefs 26-n. 8½ to 9 oz. at Tls. 1.58.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	24,263	16,304
Shanghai	52,870	51,813
Yokohama	19,972	20,531
	95,105	88,648

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	4,541	9,280
Shanghai	8,129	9,736
Yokohama	20,978	27,659
	33,648	46,675

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—The market is rather firmer. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$49.25 to \$49.50. Sales, 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—The market remains as last reported. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.23 to 7.26 per pol.
do. " 2, White... 6.50 to 6.70 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.41 to 4.44 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.28 to 4.30 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.15 to 7.17 "
do. " 2, White... 6.50 to 6.52 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.34 to 4.36 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.22 to 4.24 "
Soochow Sugar Candy11.35 to 11.70 "
Shekloong " 9.45 to 9.47 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Bengal.—New drug has declined in value, whilst Id has advanced, the market closing steady at \$652½ for New Patna, \$700 for Old Patna, \$655 for New Benares, and \$705 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has not been much doing during the past week and prices continue unchanged. The following are the latest quotations:—

New (this yr's) \$760 with all'ance of 5 catties	
" (last yr's) \$770	0 to 1 "
Old (2/4 ") \$800	0 to 3½ "
" (5/7 ") \$830	1 to 3½ "

Persian.—The demand has continued very slack and prices have further given way, latest figures being \$500 to \$640 for Oily, and \$500 to \$6.0 for Paper-wrapped drug.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,710 chests.
Old Patna	380 "
New Benares	300 "
Old Benares	43 "
Malwa	200 "
Persian	390 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 22	655	685	657½	700	760	830
Apr. 23	652½	685	652½	695	760	830
Apr. 24	652½	700	652½	705	760	830
Apr. 25	652½	700	652½	705	760	830
Apr. 26	652½	700	652½	705	760	830
Apr. 27	652½	700	655	705	760	830

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—The market has been more active during the past week and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.24 to 2.26
" Round, good quality	2.42 to 2.45
" Long	2.54 to 2.56
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.32 to 2.34
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	2.65 to 2.68
" White	3.22 to 3.25
" Fine Cargo	3.30 to 3.36

COALS.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Market quiet. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 to 19.00 ex godown, sellers.
Australian ..	6.75 to 8.00 ex ship.
Milke Lump...	— to 7.75 ex ship, sales
Milke Small...	— to — none offering
Moji Lump...	6.75 to 8.00 ex ship, sales

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—51 bales No. 8 at \$77, 380 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$96, 230 bales No. 12 at \$84 to \$90, 555 bales No. 10 at \$83.50 to \$101.50, 735 bales No. 20 at \$96.50 to \$100.50. *Grey Shirtings*.—1,100 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss at 2.90, 1,500 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.85, 1,400 pieces 8½ lbs. Double Stag at 2.40, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.30. *White Shirtings*.—450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.95, 750 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.95, 300 pieces X 6 at \$3.62½, 1,000 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.27½, 600 pieces No. 1 at \$5.77½, 1,000 pieces Flower at \$4.72½, 1,750 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.22½, 1,750 pieces 300 at \$3.50, 250 pieces X 6 at \$3.82½, 200 pieces X 8 at \$4.25, 500 pieces Dog at \$5.50. *T-Cloths*.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.22½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.67½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Black Peach at \$2, 750 pieces 7 lbs. 4 Stag at 2.15.

SHANGHAI, 22nd April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Except that deliveries have been going on fairly steadily there was small inducement for Importers to keep their offices open during the Easter holidays. Business has relapsed into a semi-comatose state, and, but for the continuance of the regular Auctions, there would be scarcely any indication forthcoming of the course of the market. From these we are certainly able to glean that the situation is not absolutely hopeless, and holders must view with some satisfaction the steadiness with which prices are keeping, at all events so far as plain Cottons are concerned. There is a fair enquiry for "chop" cargo, especially heavy Shirtings, for the Ningpo market, which appears to be the only one with any life in it, and towards the close several moderate parcels have been settled, these and a few small lots of Mexican T-Cloths constituting almost the entire business for the week, outside the Auctions. The Northern markets are unchanged, Newchwang still keeping disappointingly dull, Tientsin being very little better, except that the goods there are gradually going into consumption. Forward business seems to have been confined to a few purchases of special makes of White Shirtings.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report) 23rd April.—Owing to the very bad reports from the Northern and River ports, to the effect that the dealers in the interior are unable to take any more goods, and that the

stocks cannot in consequence be disposed of, combined with the fluctuating exchange, there has been very little business done during the past week. The Japan markets are in an equally bad state, so that we may expect the same lack of interest until the stocks on hand have been worked, and the dealers see that they must pay the enhanced home prices. Metals.—During the week an order for 200 tons of Hard Spelter has been sent home, and although the price has not been made public, we hear that it was just over £15. 100 to 150 tons L. B. Lead changed hands at Tls. 5.85 to 5.90.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, April 27th.—The market has continued quiet with no special feature to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled somewhat erratic between 173 and 175 per cent. prem. with sales at both those rates and at 174 per cent. prem. The business, however, has been limited and confined chiefly to small cash transactions and small sales at equivalent rates forward. Market closes with sellers at 174. The rate in London continues at £40. Nationals and Bank of Chinas continue on offer without business at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Continue dull and inactive with little or no business at quotations, except in Straits which have found buyers at \$19½ in small lots, and Cantons, which have changed hands in small lots at \$184 and \$185.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkong's remain neglected and weak, the lower rate of \$350 at which shares are offering still not inducing buyers to come forward. Chinas have been negotiated at \$101 and \$102 and close with sellers at \$101.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled quiet but steady at \$35½ to \$35½ with small sales for cash, at \$35½ and \$35½ for May, and at \$36 for June, closing with sellers at \$35½. Indo-Chinas changed hands in the early part of the week at \$48, at which they were in good demand until the receipt of news of the stranding of the Yiksang when they experienced a slight set back to \$47; at time of closing, on account of the steamer having been got off shares are rather firmer and could be placed at \$47 to \$47½. Douglasses came in to sudden demand in the early part of the week and changed hands in fair quantities at \$59, \$59½, and \$60, until the action of the Government in prohibiting passengers from Swatow and Formosa to land here on account of the plague acted as a check and stopped all dealings; at time of writing, however, shares are firmer and could be placed at \$60. China Mutuals are still enquired for at quotations and China Manilas have changed hands at \$69.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have improved and have been dealt in at \$134, \$135, \$136, \$137, and \$138, closing steady at last rate. Luzons, with no shares obtainable at last rate quoted, have further advanced to \$47½ with small sales only, the majority of holders refusing to part at this rate.

MINING.—Punjoms have been much steadier and in some request, changing hands at \$4½, \$5, \$5½, and \$5½ in fair lots. Charbonnages have found more buyers at \$80 and are still wanted at that rate. New Balmorals Ordinaries and Preferences have been the medium of a fair business at \$1.50 and \$1.60 and close steady to strong at \$1.60 and \$1.75 respectively. Jebebus have been done at \$2.35 and \$2.25, closing quiet. The report for the half-year shows a loss on working account of \$20,006.43, which the directors propose to carry forward, thereby increasing the debit balance to \$26,792.50. Raubs have ruled in strong and steady demand with sales at \$16, \$17, \$17½, \$18, \$18½, and \$18½. Oliver's A are on offer at \$17 without finding buyers, whilst B's have changed hands to a fair extent \$6½ and \$6½ cum new issue, closing steady \$6½ ex new issue.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong Docks ruled firm in the early part of the week and shares were difficult to obtain at 247 per cent. prem. Later, however, with a few settlement shares offering, the rate fell to 245, and a forced sale at 244 per cent. prem. was effected. On time a few transactions have been negotiated at rates equivalent to 247 per cent. prem. cash. Kowloon Wharves have found further buyers at \$65 and Wanchai at \$43½.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue to rule very firm and a fair number have changed hands at \$78 and \$78½, closing steady to strong. Hotels, with a continued demand at \$38 and no sellers, have advanced to \$39 with sales and close firm at that rate. West Points have been vainly enquired for at \$19½ with apparently no sellers under \$20. Humphreys Estates and Kowloon Lands have changed hands at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have continued steady at \$29½ and \$30 with fair sales. Watsons have changed hands at \$12½ and close in demand at that rate. Electrics have found buyers in large lots at \$8, \$8.10, and \$8.15, closing steady at the latter rate. Ropes have been negotiated at \$155, 100s at \$110, and Tramways at 97½. Shanghai Cotton Mills have improved all round with sales at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$342.50, sal. & s. 174 % prem.—
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	nominal
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s	£5, buyers
Do. deferred...	£1	
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$22½, sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$3½, sales
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$137, buyers
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$3, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29½, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$29½, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$31, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$8.15, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$97½, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$65, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$155, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	244 p. ct. prem.—
Insurances—		[\$430, sales
Canton	\$50	\$185, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$101, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350, sales & sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 188, sales & b.
Straits	\$20	\$19½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$230, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$165
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$78, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$3.75, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16
West Point Building	\$40	\$19.75
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47½, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$30, sales & buyers
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.25, sal. & sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.50, sales
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.75, sal. & buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$17, sellers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$6½, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$5½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.30, sal. & buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$18.25, sal. & sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$69, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 5s.
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$60, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$35½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$47½, sales & buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$43½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, sales & buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 23rd April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Business has been rather brisker this week, and prices have been well maintained. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—A fair business has been done locally at 175 per cent. premium to 172½ per cent. premium, closing at 173 per cent. premium, and to Hongkong at 174 per cent. premium. There are buyers there at the same price. There is no business to report in other Bank shares. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in Unions at \$240, North-Chinas at Tls. 190 and Tls. 192½, Yangtzes at \$165 cash, and \$165/166 for the 30th current and Straits at \$19, and to Hongkong at \$20. Fire Insurance.—China Fire shares were sold at \$101. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. shares have been sold to a fair extent at Tls. 35 to Tls. 34½ cash, Tls. 34½ for the 30th

current, Tls. 35 for the 31st May, and Tls. 36½ for the 31st July. The news that the "Yiksang" is ashore near the Shimodoseki Straits, makes the market weak, with sellers. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are wanted at Tls. 25. China Sugar Refining shares were placed locally at \$133, and sold to Hongkong at the same price. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$43, and to Hongkong at \$45. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. have changed hands, and a few are offering, at Tls. 210. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 185 cash and Tls. 190 for the 30th June. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares have been sold at Tls. 119 and Tls. 120. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 90. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares have been placed at Tls. 42. Ewo Cotton shares at Tls. 90, Tls. 91 and Tls. 92, and are wanted: International Cotton shares at Tls. 100, Liou-kung-mow Cotton shares at Tls. 100 and Tls. 103. China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 50. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 300; Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 167½ to Tls. 170 cash, Tls. 170 and Tls. 172½ for June, Tls. 175 for August, and Tls. 185 for the 31st October. Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 547½ and Tls. 550 cash, Tls. 550 for the 30th April, Tls. 580 for the 31st May, Tls. 580 for the 30th June, Tls. 625 for the 31st October, and Tls. 650 for the 31st December, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$40 ex dividend. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5½ per cent. Debentures of 1892 were sold at Tls. 102, and the 6 per cent. Debentures of 1894 were sold at Tls. 105, plus the accrued interest in both cases.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 27th April.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.53
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.57
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.05
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	160
Bank, on demand	160½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	160
Bank, on demand	160½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	¾ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	9 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	9.79
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	50.25

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 23rd April (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Now that the termination of the "Conference" year is close at hand, both for London and New York, it may be interesting to anticipate what the future will bring forth. It is highly improbable that the New York agreement will be renewed on the former basis, and rumours of changes in the London syndicate, as regards Continental ports, would point to a prospect of lower rates in the coming new season. Opposition has always been talked of and threatened as each year draws to a close, but so far nothing of much importance has turned up. Now, however, we think the "plain sailing" of the past few years is likely to be somewhat upset, though what shippers ask for is that a reasonable rate should be established and maintained rather than that rates should be chopping and changing and always uncertain. Coastwise.—Prices in produce having declined at Newchwang, a fair demand has been experienced for tonnage, and settlements have been made at 21½ to 22 cents to Kobe. From Japan, coal freights have still further advanced, and as high as \$2.35 has been offered for a steamer from Nagasaki to this, but refused. For London via Suez.—The three departures during the fortnight have been more than able to supply all the demands of exporters, while ample tonnage for current require-

ments is provided. For New York *via* Cape.—We have nothing of interest to report, and the berth is amply represented by the *Olan Mackenzie*, now receiving the very small quantity of cargo offering. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 3s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 35s.; tea 30s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 42s. 6d.; Boston *via* New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 37s. 6d.; Philadelphia *via* New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 37s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Rickmers' and Kingsin Lines, general cargo 33s. 6d. net; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports by all lines. New York, by sail, 16s.; New York by Pacific Lines, 1½ gold cents per lb. general cargo. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$2.20 nominal per ton coal. Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2.40 ready steamer per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Japan (str.), *Riojun Maru* (s.r.).
 For BREMEN.—Aden (str.).
 For VI-TORIA.—Mount Lebanon (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—Falls of Dee, Peru (str.).
 Coptic (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—Benmohr (str.).
 For AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

April—
 22, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
 22, Oanfa, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 22, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 22, Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
 22, Strathlan, British str., from Hongay.
 22, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 22, Vulcan, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 22, Daphne, British cruiser, from Manila.
 22, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 22, Albingia, German str., from Saigon.
 23, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
 23, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 23, Mount Lebanon, Brit. str., from Portland.
 23, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 23, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 23, Carmarthenshire, Brit. str., from N. York.
 23, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 23, Pakshan, British str., from Singapore.
 23, Namyong, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
 24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 24, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 24, Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.
 24, Benledi, British str., from London.
 24, Loyal, German str., from Swatow.
 25, Bayern, German str., from Shanghai.
 25, Federation, British str., from Moji.
 25, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 25, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
 25, Phra Chom Klao, British str., from B'kok.
 25, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 25, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
 25, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 25, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 25, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.
 26, Frammes, Norw. str., from Newcastle.
 26, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
 26, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 26, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 27, Teenkai, British str., from Liverpool.
 27, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
 27, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Letimbro, Ita ian str., from Bombay.
 27, Hupeh, British str., from Iloilo.
 27, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Bylgia, German bark, from Takaw.
 27, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.

DEPARTURES.

April—
 22, Humber, British storeship, for Shanghai.
 22, Henry Failing, Amr. ship, for Victoria.

22, Thames, British str., for Europe.
 22, Australian, British str., for Sydney.
 23, Belgio, British str., for San Francisco.
 23, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Erator, German str., for Hamburg.
 23, Activ, Danish str., for Tamsui.
 23, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 23, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 23, Hoihow, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 23, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 24, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 24, Stanfield, British bark, for Singapore.
 24, Ask, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 24, Socotra, British str., for Kobe.
 24, Tailee, German str., for Swatow.
 24, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
 25, Carmarthenshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 25, Chowtai, British str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Frejr, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 25, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 25, Martha, German str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 25, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 25, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
 26, Chingping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 26, Namyong, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Boston, Amr. cruiser, for a cruise.
 27, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 27, Petrarch, German str., for Mantung.
 27, Carrier Dove, Amr. sh., for P. Townsend.
 27, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 27, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 27, Deuolion, British str., for Kudat.
 27, Benledi, British str., for Kobe.
 27, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 27, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Mathilde, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. C. G. Rogge.
 Per Thales, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Vosteen and child, Mrs. Ewanson.
 Per Peru, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. M. Charvet, Mrs. Leland.
 Per Zafiro, str., from Manila.—Mr. and Mrs. Miguel de Linan, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Varela Calderon and children, Miss Hogg, and Messrs. R. H. Wright, J. J. Collins and Hawkes.
 Per Carmarthenshire, str., from New York, &c.—Dr. Charles, Mr. O'Gorman.
 Per Pakshan, str., from Singapore.—Mr. Pollard.
 Per Kwang Lee, steamer, from Shanghai.—Mr. J. Coulton.
 Per Yarra, steamer, for Hongkong from Colombo.—Mr. Brandenburg. From Singapore.—Lieut. Colonel Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Neumann, and Messrs. H. A. Rely, H. Davis, Bun Sing and Heng Watt. From Saigon.—R. D. Ismail. From Marseilles for Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Molchanoff, and Messrs. Liou, Butler, E. R. Bull, and Li. From Singapore.—Messrs. W. H. Rhodes and Ch. Fritz. From Marseilles for Yokohama.—Messrs. H. Hellier, Arazuké, Merecki, Marsh and Kawakita. From Singapore.—Mr. Weaver. From Saigon.—Mr. and Mrs. Chabrier.
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 Per Sungkiang, str., from Manila—Consul and Mrs. Berard and 2 children.
 Per Sishan, str., from Saigon—Mrs. Barrington and Mr. Rodger.
 Per Hailoong, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Cass, Mr. W. F. Wallace.
 Per Haitan, str., from Coast Ports.—Miss Macgregor, Mr. Figuerido, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. and Mrs. Gaby and child, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Gedge.
 Per Hohenzollern, str., from Yokohama.—Messrs. Shand, Poundall, Brown, Hattori, Dr. and Mrs. Tovel and children, Miss Sederland, Mr. Hilton Redley, Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop and children, Messrs. Matasada Esaki, Glizawa, Tomkins, Neil, Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren and children, Mrs. Nickel and child, Mr. Bokaroff, Mrs. David Crowe, Master Willy Crowe, Miss W. E. Stone.

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Per Hongkong, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. Murat, Mr. and Mrs. Gele.

Per Chingtu, str., from Australia—Mrs. Whyte, Mrs. Hawley, Mrs. and Miss Tarn, Miss Bird, Miss Campbell, Messrs. Ainrick, C. Apperby, A. Apperby, G. Whitney, H. Cross, G. Macfarlane, W. Whyte, and MacGregor.

DEPARTED.

Per Thames, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. H. T. Begley, Mrs. Buddery. For Ismailia—Mr. S. Rinaldo. For London—Madam The O'Gorman, Lieut. O. H. Davies, R.N., Lieut. J. M. D. E. Warren, R.N., Mrs. Inchbald and 3 children, Miss Goulder, Mrs. Irwin, Messrs. A. H. Sharp and R. Berwick, Coy.-Sergt.-Major Morgan, R.E., Mrs. Morgan and 3 children. From Shanghai for London—Mrs. Archibald Little, Mr. R. S. Thomson, Dr. and Mrs. D. Christie and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. Douglas and 2 children, Mr. F. W. Grossman, Misses Mulligan, Stayner, Mertens, F. Lloyd, Cowley, and Hattrem, Master A. Youngman, and Mr. Lawson. From Yokohama for Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Trafford. For Bombay—Mr. R. English. For London—Misses Hogg and C. Hogg.

Per Namoa, str., for Swatow—Mr. Neubrunn. For Amoy—Mr. French.

Per Australian, str., for Sydney, &c.—Mrs. Toll, Master Toll, Misses Tennant, Bestie, Helms, and Clarke, Mr. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. Carse, and Mr. J. Henry.

Per Belgio, str., for Shanghai—Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane, Miss Hozier, Capt. Peters, Messrs. N. J. Stubb, H. Baker, Kahunveiler, F. M. B. Mattos, and H. Hewitt. For Kobe—Capt. and Mrs. Gordon and infant, Mr. and Mrs. McConaghey, Surg.-Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Johnstone and daughter, and Master B. Leach. For Yokohama—Capt. Dyson, Lieut. C. Ryall, Lieut. C. B. Tew, Messrs. R. Leuzmann and L. C. Rozario, Mr. and Mrs. Eckley, For San Francisco—Mr. Pauline Miller, Mrs. Alex. Miller, Mr. Geo. Johnstone, and Mr. A. Johnson. For Boston—Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth. For New York—Rev. and Mrs. Lawson and infant. For London—Mr. J. W. T. Macarthen, Col. J. S. Walker, Mr. John Gray, Mr. G. Sharp, and Lieut. Major Charles. For Hamburg—Messrs. Otto Kurz and C. Broderston.

Per Verona, str., from Hongkong for Nagasaki—Mr. E. A. Measor, Lieut. P. W. Remington, R.N., and Mr. C. H. Robinson. For Kobe—Dr. A. Harrison. For Yokohama—Dr. Hartigan, Messrs. Robertson, R. Suttle, J. Callis, G. Martin, L. Coombe, T. Miller, W. George, J. M. Morton, E. C. Roe, W. A. Treverton, and A. A. Utber. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. J. T. McArthur, David Marsden, K. MacKenzie, and Evans. From Bombay—Miss Varum.

Per Catherine Apcar, str., for Calcutta—Subadar Falteh Khan, Mrs. Lee, Messrs. Huelson and Whitton.

Per Yamashiro Maru, str., for Sydney, &c.—Messrs. G. Siegfried, A. C. Dight, H. J. Dight, S. Sawaki, Mr. and Mrs. Vosteen and child, and Mons. Tardos.

Per Yarra, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Messrs. R. Becker, R. H. Wright, and J. J. Collins; Rev. Lemonier, Mr. and Mrs. S. Berey, Mr. and Mrs. Cultz, and Miss Cultz. For Kobe—Mrs. and Miss Rodger. For Yokohama—Messrs. Woog, Chaine, C. Voulemier, G. J. Apcar, J. M. Marques, and F. Polzien. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Molchanoff, Messrs. Butler, Lien, Li, and E. K. Bull. From Singapore—Messrs. W. H. Rhodes and Ch. Fritz. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Messrs. H. Hellin, Arazuké, Merecki, Marsh, and Kawakita. From Singapore—Mr. Weaver. From Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. Chabrier.

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